

New Grad Dorm Will Allow MIT to Boost Undergrad Class Size

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

The Institute's recently announced plans to build a new graduate dormitory will allow MIT to increase undergraduate enrollment by about 100 students per year by moving undergraduate students into Ashdown House, currently a graduate residence.

The major factor constraining undergraduate class size is not a lack of academic resources, but a dearth of beds on campus, said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. Ashdown House, which presently houses about 360 graduate students, could be used as a residence for 450 undergraduate students, allowing MIT to increase its undergraduate population to the level of 10 to 15 years ago, with about 1080–1100 in each class, Benedict said.

In recent years, Ashdown has had trouble filling all its beds, as many graduate "students are willing to pay a lot more for their own bedroom," Benedict said. Housing undergraduates in the building in double rooms would increase the capacity.

Though no final number has been set for an increased class size, the jump to about 1,100 students per class is something administrators are leaning toward, said Benedict, who emphasized that the Institute would first have to ensure that services like Mental Health and Student Support Services had the necessary resources before admitting more students.

"Everyone here wants to increase the class size," said Dean for Admis-

Dormitory, Page 17



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Professor of Biology Lisa A. Steiner is serenaded by The MIT Logarithms on Valentine's Day during a lecture for 7.02. The Logs sang to Steiner while waiting for their desired recipient, Anne P. Liu '08, who was late to class.

Cake to Headline Spring Weekend

By Marie Y. Thibault
NEWS EDITOR

The main act of this year's Spring Weekend concert will be Cake, an alternative band "in the real alternative sense," said Spring Committee Co-chairman Sisi Zhu '08. Spring Weekend will be on April 28–30 this year, with the concert being held on Friday, April 28 in Johnson Athletic Center.

Cake was the committee's fifth choice, with bands Death Cab for Cutie, Franz Ferdinand, and The Strokes being top choices, Zhu said. Other possible bands did not work out either because they were already on tour, are not touring, or are hard to work with, since some bands are known for being "demanding, snooty, or not pleasant to work with," she said. According to the Web site for the Coachella Valley Music and Arts

Festival, Franz Ferdinand will be performing the same weekend as Spring Weekend.

Cake's hour to hour-and-a half show will cost \$40,000, Zhu said, although no formal contract has been signed yet. Cake's fee is on the low end of the spectrum as far as concert performers goes, she wrote in an e-mail.

Co-chairman Cindy X. Yuan '06 said that the entire weekend, funded by the Student Life department, which draws from the \$100 Student Life Fee that each student pays per semester, will cost around \$95,000. Plans will be finalized around the beginning of April, but based on last year's prices, student tickets will probably cost around \$15, Zhu said.

Included in plans for the weekend are the annual Alpha Chi Omega

Lipsync Contest on Saturday night and the I-Fair, the international fair held by cultural student groups, on Friday afternoon, Yuan said. A hip-hop event, Get Sprung, will be held in The Coffeehouse after the lipsync contest Saturday night. The artist for that event is being chosen by SaveTFP, a group of MIT students that "throws free events on campus," according to the SaveTFP Web site.

Though plans have not been finalized, possibilities for Sunday events are a Habitat for Humanity Campus Build or a Sunday brunch at Sidney-Pacific graduate dormitory. If included, the brunch will be an attempt to involve the graduate student community more, Yuan said.

Fabulous and Lloyd Banks, hip-

Cake, Page 19

Industry Playing a Role In MIT Energy Initiative

By Angeline Wang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

As the Energy Research Council works to finish its energy report for President Susan Hockfield, industry leaders are becoming more involved with MIT and the research side of the Energy Initiative. On the educational end of the push for more work in energy research, a Web site listing classes which have significant focus on energy was recently launched.

To create recommendations for the Energy Initiative, the Council is evaluating feedback from students, faculty, and industry.

"We have not reached our final conclusions," said Council co-chair Ernest J. Moniz, physics professor and co-director of the Laboratory

for Energy and Environment. "We're preparing to have our discussion with the president in about two weeks. Then it will be up to President Hockfield [and others] what specific directives" to pursue.

Most industry input was gathered at an MIT-sponsored energy workshop in December. More than 160 industry professionals and members of academia attended the two-day energy workshop, said Cynthia C. Bloomquist, an associate director in MIT's Industrial Liaison Program, which sponsored the workshop.

The industry professionals, from automotive, fuel, and other energy-related industries, gave input during

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BE Avoids Lottery As Fewer Apply, More Spaces Added

By Kirtana Raja
STAFF REPORTER

After its first departmental lottery ever, biological engineering enrolled all the students who applied for membership to its first undergraduate class. Only 33 out of the 75 students who took the required introductory BE focused class applied to the major, eliminating the need for a lottery.

BE Professor Linda G. Griffith, who is in charge of the curriculum, said some of the 75 possible candidates did not apply because their expectations for the BE major were

different from the actual curriculum and purpose, and they found that another major fit them better.

Originally, laboratory space limitations were expected to constrain the class size to 20, but through efforts by the MIT administration and the BE department, additional space was found to accommodate all 33 students.

"Our target number for the first class was 20, based primarily on the laboratory space available for BE.109 (Laboratory Fundamen-

BE, Page 13

More Grads Enter Job Market, Fewer Pursue Graduate School

By Brian Keegan
STAFF REPORTER

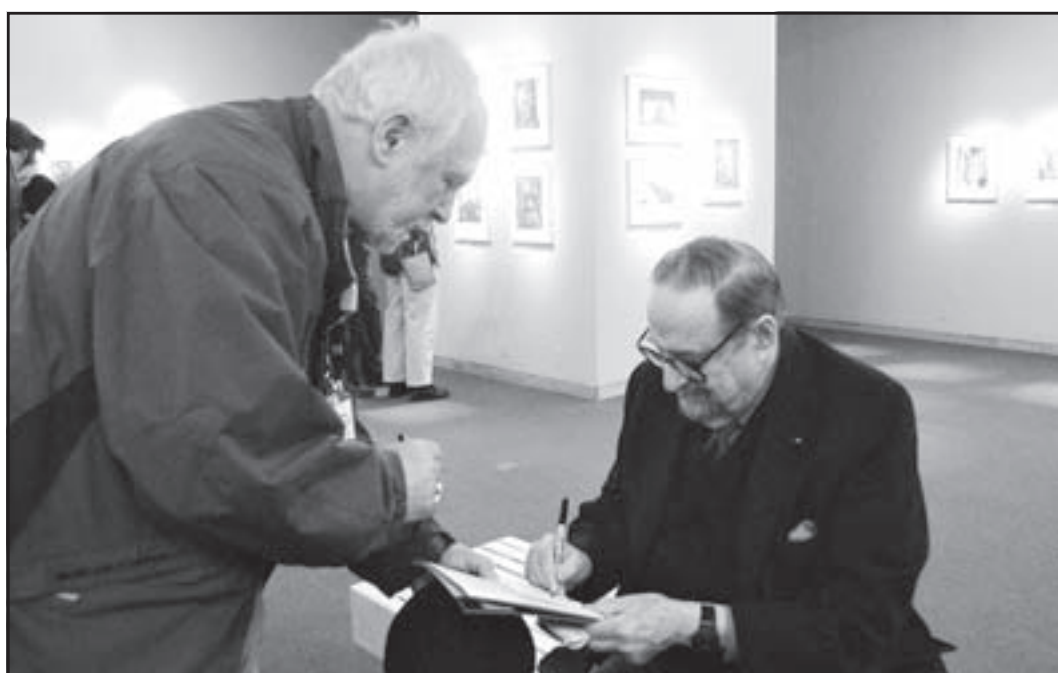
An improving economy is driving an increasing number of MIT students to work full-time after graduation rather than pursue another degree. But as the job market improves, the competition has become fiercer, leading some students to interview more than 20 times even for summer internships.

Data from the MIT Careers Office for the past three years shows the percentage of undergraduates

continuing on to graduate school declining from a high of 67 percent in 2003 to 47 percent in 2005. At the same time, the percentage of undergraduates going directly into the workforce rose from 33 percent in 2003 to over 40 percent in 2005.

This year's Tau Beta Pi Career attracted 47 companies hiring for both full-time positions and summer internships. Of the random selection of companies polled by this

Careers, Page 14



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Arnold Newman, considered by many to be the creator of "environmental portraiture," signs an autograph at a reception in the Compton Gallery, surrounded by an exhibit of his photography on Thursday, February 16. The reception followed a talk in 10-250.

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WORLD & NATION

Deal Reached to Name A Victor in Haiti's Election

By **Ginger Thompson**
THE NEW YORK TIMES PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

The front-runner in last week's presidential election will be declared the winner as part of an agreement by leaders of Haiti's interim government to retabulate the votes, a high-ranking official of the Organization of American States said Wednesday night.

The agreement, to be announced Thursday, is a result of negotiations by the front-runner, Rene Preval, government officials, foreign diplomats and international observers, including the Organization of American States. Details were still being worked out, and a U.N. official cautioned that the deal could still fall apart.

The official from the Organization of American States, who insisted on anonymity because of the fragile nature of the agreement, said that loopholes in Haitian electoral law allow the government to discard an estimated 85,000 blank ballots included in the original tally. By excluding them, Preval's lead would increase from 48.7 percent of the votes to slightly more than 51 percent.

Under election rules, the winner needs 50 percent plus one vote to avoid a run-off.

Olympics on NBC Struggles For TV Ratings Gold

By **Richard Sandomir and Bill Carter**
THE NEW YORK TIMES TURIN, ITALY

NBC's Olympic broadcasts have never faced the kind of strong counterprogramming that is being deployed by the "American Idol" series on the Fox network and other popular shows on ABC.

"Idol" has trounced the Winter Olympic Games twice and will face them three more times next week, starting Tuesday, the first night of women's figure skating. ABC's and Fox's audacity underscores their belief that NBC, the No. 4 network in prime time, is vulnerable, even during the mighty Olympics.

On Tuesday, two days after ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" outrated the Olympics, "Idol" attracted 27 million viewers from 8 to 9 p.m., crushing NBC's 15.4 million.

On Wednesday, "Idol" overwhelmed the Olympics with 28.3 million viewers, nearly doubling NBC's 14.3 million from 8 to 9 p.m.

Although NBC officials said they fully expected "Idol" to defeat the Olympics by wide margins, they were surprised that "House," the medical drama, retained as many "Idol" viewers as it did. The 20.1 million "House" viewers nearly tied NBC's 20.9 million from 9 to 10 p.m. Eastern.

Icahn Dropping Effort To Break Time Warner Up

By **Richard Siklos and Andrew Ross Sorkin**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Carl C. Icahn, the financier, is backing away from his attempt to break Time Warner into pieces, looking instead to negotiate some smaller changes at the company in exchange for dropping his acrimonious campaign, according to people involved in the discussion.

If Icahn and Time Warner Chairman Richard D. Parsons come to terms, Icahn would shelve the fight for control of Time Warner, with the backing of three investment funds and the investment banker Bruce Wasserstein of Lazard.

Icahn and his backers control 3.3 percent of Time Warner's shares.

People close to Icahn and Parsons said the two men were speaking Thursday, and Icahn had contacted Parsons throughout the week with a list of proposals.

Assuming Icahn and Parsons are able to come to terms, the many properties of Time Warner — including Warner Brothers, HBO, CNN, America Online and Time Magazine — would stay together.

Congress to Initiate Inquiry Into NSA's Wiretap Program

By **Eric Lichtblau and Sheryl Gay Stolbert**
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

Leaders of the House Intelligence Committee said Thursday that they had agreed to open a Congressional inquiry prompted by the Bush administration's domestic surveillance program. But a dispute immediately broke out among committee Republicans over the scope of the inquiry.

Representative Heather A. Wilson, the New Mexico Republican and committee member who called last week for the investigation, said the review "will have multiple avenues, because we want to completely understand the program and move forward."

But an aide to Representative Peter Hoekstra, the Michigan Republican who leads the committee, said the inquiry would be much more limited in scope, focusing on whether federal surveillance laws needed to be changed and not on the eavesdropping program itself.

The agreement to conduct an inquiry came as the Senate Intelligence Committee put off a vote on conducting its own investigation after the White House, reversing course, agreed

to open discussions about changing federal surveillance law. Senate Democrats accused Republicans of bowing to White House pressure.

For weeks, the Bush administration has been strongly resisting calls from Democrats and some Republicans for a full review into the National Security Agency's surveillance program, saying such inquiries are unnecessary and risked disclosing national security information that could help Al Qaeda.

Elsewhere on Thursday, a federal judge ordered the administration to begin turning over internal documents on the surveillance program, the Justice Department balked at having John Ashcroft, the former attorney general, and other former department officials testify about it before Congress, and lawyers for a Kentucky man prepared to bring a federal civil rights lawsuit on Friday against President Bush to have the surveillance declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The surveillance, authorized in secret by President Bush soon after the Sept. 11 attacks, has allowed the N.S.A. to eavesdrop on the international phone and e-mail communications of hundreds and perhaps thousands of people within the United

States without warrants when the authorities suspect that they might have links to terrorists.

Mr. Hoekstra has been one of the staunchest defenders of the program. But in discussions this week with other Republican and Democratic leaders of the committee, he agreed to have the committee open the inquiry, officials said, after signs that some Republicans on the panel had growing concerns about the operation.

Ms. Wilson said the review would include closed-door briefings by intelligence officials about the operational details of the program, a review of its legality and discussion about whether changes are needed in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, which bans eavesdropping in intelligence investigations without a court order.

While the administration agreed under pressure last week to provide limited operational details to the House and Senate intelligence committees, Ms. Wilson said she wanted more information and remained uncertain whether the N.S.A. had the needed safeguards in place to protect against civil rights abuses against Americans.

U.N. Report Assails Detention, Interrogation at Guantanamo

By **Warren Hoge**
THE NEW YORK TIMES UNITED NATIONS

Human rights investigators working for the United Nations called on the United States on Thursday to shut down the Guantanamo Bay camp and either try its detainees quickly or free them.

Arguing that many of the interrogation and detention practices used in Guantanamo amounted to torture, the investigators' report said those who ordered or condoned abusive practices should be brought to justice "up to the highest level of military and political command."

The 54-page report, based largely on interviews with former detainees and publicized information, including news accounts, is not legally binding. But it urged that Guantanamo be closed "without further delay," and called for U.S. personnel to

be trained in international standards for the treatment of detainees.

The White House promptly dismissed the report, suggesting that the investigators had based their conclusions on false information spread by terror suspects.

"I think what we are seeing is a rehash of allegations that have been made by lawyers representing some of the detainees," Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman, said on Thursday. "We know that al-Qaida detainees are trained in trying to disseminate false allegations."

The report, released Thursday after a draft had circulated earlier this week, said the United States should immediately revoke all "special interrogation techniques" authorized by the Defense Department. It called upon the United States "to refrain from any practice amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading

treatment or punishment, discrimination on the basis of religion and violations of the right to health and freedom of religion."

McClellan asserted that the U.S. military already treated detainees humanely. "These are dangerous terrorists that we are talking about who are there," he said. "Nothing has changed in terms of our views."

The report was requested by the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and compiled by five independent scientists, lawyers and academics over the last 18 months. As such, it does not prompt any official U.N. action, and Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has no direct authority over the commission, distanced himself from its specific recommendations.

"I cannot say that I necessarily agree with everything in the report," he said Thursday.

WEATHER

A Taste of the Winter

By **Roberto Rondanelli**
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Weather for the next couple of days will be dominated by the presence of a deep low pressure over the Canadian province of Quebec. The center of the low is forecast to be at 988 millibars, with isobars very close together (steep pressure gradient), consistent with strong sustained winds of about 30 to 35 mph for our region (about 50 to 60 km/h). Expect an abrupt transition of temperature as the cold front moves through Boston at the surface, in the early hours of the afternoon. The passage of the front should put an end to the warm spell after last weekend's blizzard. The outlook for the next few days includes a very cold and sunny weekend due to the strong northerly flow associated with the anticyclonic (high pressure) circulation coming right behind the low.

Extended Forecast

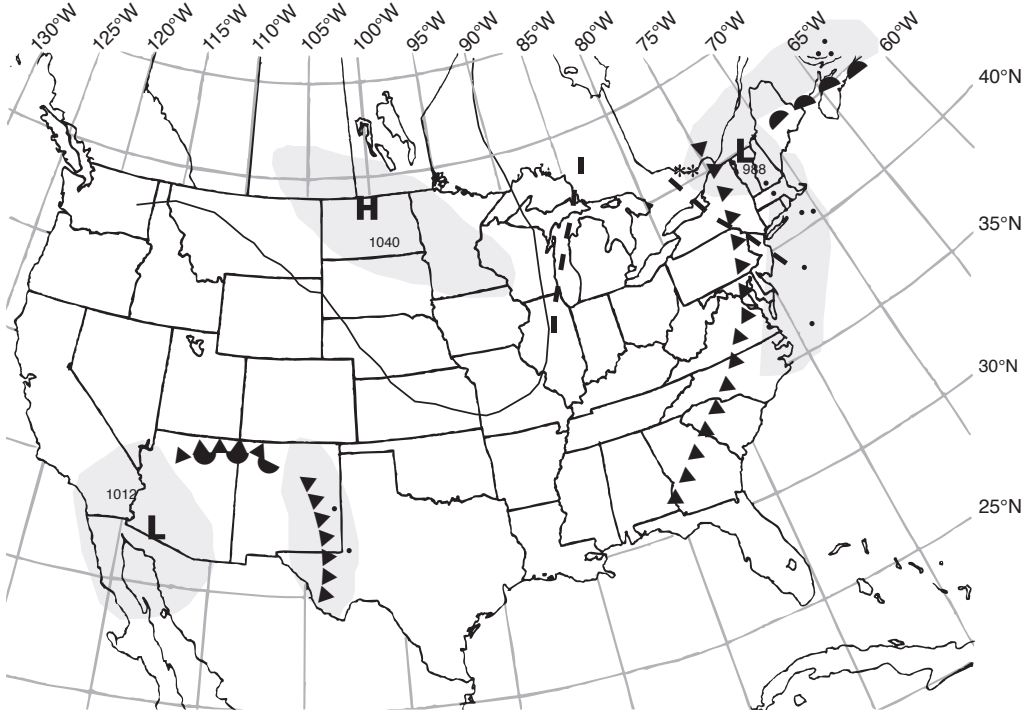
Today: Warm, mostly cloudy with showers in the morning and early afternoon. Very windy. Chance of thunderstorms. Clear and much colder towards the evening. Low 41°F (5°C). High 56°F (13°C).

Saturday: Mostly clear and cold. Low 22°F (-6°C). High 33°F (1°C).

Sunday: Clear and cold. Low 12°F (-11°C). High 30°F (-1°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow * Rain ∇	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light * Moderate ** Heavy ***	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front		∞ Haze
	▲ Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 17, 2006



Bush ‘Satisfied’ With Cheney’s Handling of Shooting Accident

By Elisabeth Bumiller
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush said Thursday that Vice President Dick Cheney had handled the disclosure of an accidental shooting of a hunting partner “just fine” and that the incident had been a “traumatic moment” for Cheney as well as a tragic one for the victim.

Bush’s comments were his first on the matter since Cheney wounded the victim, a 78-year-old lawyer, Harry M. Whittington, on a quail-hunting expedition in Texas last weekend. They were also Bush’s first public reaction to an interview that Cheney gave about the incident on Wednesday night to Fox News, and they came on the same day that the local sheriff’s department said the investigation of the incident was closed and no charges would be filed.

Bush’s words appeared to be an

attempt to tamp down widespread talk about tensions between himself and Cheney. Bush’s aides had made little secret all week that they wished Cheney had handled the matter differently — in particular by disclosing it more quickly and through a more established channel than the Web site of a local newspaper in Texas — and on Wednesday the White House signaled that Bush was sympathetic to that view. The incident was not made public for more than 18 hours.

“I thought his explanation yesterday was a powerful explanation,” Bush told reporters in the Oval Office, speaking of Cheney’s interview on Fox. “This is a man who likes the outdoors, and he likes to hunt. And he heard a bird flush and he turned and pulled the trigger and saw his friend get wounded. And it was a deeply traumatic moment for him, and obviously it was a tragic moment for Mr.

Whittington.”

Bush’s words also appeared aimed at trying to put to rest an issue that has consumed the White House and kept Washington in an uproar for most of the week, distracting attention from Bush’s efforts to rebuild his political standing and push his agenda.

“I’m satisfied with the explanation he gave,” Bush said, twice.

As Bush spoke, Cheney was headed to Wyoming, his home state, to make a speech to the Legislature on Friday. Cheney was expected to mention the hunting accident in his remarks, which were scheduled before the accident.

It was unclear when, or if, Cheney would go hunting again.

In his interview with Brit Hume of Fox, Cheney talked readily of hunting as a part of his life. “It’s brought me great pleasure over the years,” he said.

Transplanted Brazilian Auto Plant To Help China Succeed in Industry

By Keith Bradsher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHONGQING, CHINA

China is pursuing a novel way to catapult its automobile manufacturing industry into a global force: Buy one of the world’s most sophisticated engine plants, take it apart, piece by piece, transport it halfway around the globe and put it back together again at home.

In the latest sign of China’s manufacturing ambitions, a major Chinese company, hand-in-hand with the Communist Party, is bidding to buy a car engine plant in Brazil from DaimlerChrysler and BMW.

Because the plant is so sophisticated, it is far more feasible for the Chinese automaker, the Lifan Group, to go through such an effort to move it 8,300 miles, rather than to develop its own technology in this industrial hub in western China, the company’s

president said Thursday.

If the purchase succeeds — and it is early in the process — China could leapfrog competitors like South Korea to catch up with Japan, Germany and the United States in selling some of the most fuel-efficient yet comfortable cars on the market, like the Honda Civic or the Toyota Corolla.

The failure of China to develop its own version of sophisticated, reliable engines has been the biggest technical obstacle facing Chinese automakers as they modernize and prepare to export to the United States and Europe, Western auto executives and analysts said.

Buying that technology from overseas would not only remove this obstacle but also plant China’s auto industry solidly in a position to produce roomy cars that can also get more than 30 mpg.

The engine plant is one of the

most famous and unusual in the auto industry. Built in southern Brazil in the late 1990s at a cost of \$500 million by a 50-50 joint venture of Chrysler and BMW, the Campo Largo factory combines the latest American and German technology to produce the 1.6-liter, 16-valve Tritec engine.

Lifan says it is the sole bidder for the factory and wants to bring it here to start producing engines in 2008. Though China’s Communist Party is actively behind the effort, the bold moves are being driven by one of China’s remarkable entrepreneurs: Yin Mingshan has become one of China’s most successful and most politically connected corporate executives, with a hardscrabble upbringing that included spending 22 years of his earlier life in Communist labor camps and prison as punishment for his political dissent.

U.N. Report Faults Military And Rebels in Nepal

By Somini Sengupta
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HYDERABAD, INDIA

The U.N. envoy for human rights in Nepal, in a report released on Thursday, accused both the military and the rebels in that country of violating international humanitarian law. The report said that the rebels had carried out abductions and assaults on civilians and the Royal Nepalese Army had been guilty of indiscriminate aerial bombings that failed to distinguish civilian from military targets.

In the report, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the army to ensure that soldiers guilty of rights violations are not permitted to take part in lucrative U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The report said the U.N. office had received accusations that people in army custody had been tortured, including beatings, kickings, electric shocks and sexual assault. It reported a “serious inadequacy of efforts by security forces to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.”

The report is submitted to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which convenes next month and deliberates over whether to impose sanctions on any of its member nations. The government had no comment on the report.

The report also accused Maoist rebels, who have carried out a decade-long insurgency against the state, of extortion, abduction and the recruitment of child soldiers. Violence fell sharply during the Maoists’ unilateral four-month-long cease-fire, which ended earlier this year.

“It is a tragedy for the people of Nepal that full-scale conflict has now resumed,” said Ian Martin, the representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal’s capital, Katmandu.

Bipartisan Support Emerges For Federal Whistle-Blowers

By Scott Shane
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Even as the Bush administration presses an aggressive campaign against leaks, some congressional Republicans are joining Democrats in supporting government employees who say they have been punished for revealing sensitive information about alleged abuses.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., is leading the defense of whistle-blowers who have spoken out about abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, illicit wiretapping and other matters. He believes that an existing law designed to protect intelligence whistle-blowers is ineffective.

“It’s absolutely essential that we have a system that allows people to speak out about abuses, especially in the national security realm,” Shays said in an interview.

He said his conviction that current protections are inadequate was strengthened by testimony Tuesday at a hearing of his House subcommittee on national security by five self-described whistle-blowers who described retaliation for their revelations.

Shays’ concerns are shared by numerous Democrats and some other Republicans, including Rep. Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania, who has denounced what he calls the mistreatment of a military intelligence officer, Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, who revealed the Pentagon’s Able Danger data-mining program. Weldon believes that the program identified Mohammed Atta before he became the lead hijacker in the 2001 terrorist attacks, though a Pentagon review found no evidence to support that conclusion.

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OPINION

Big Housing Plans Deserve Scrutiny

A pivotal moment in student life at MIT is upon us. Last year, the Division of Student Life laid out three possible plans for revolutionary changes in both graduate and undergraduate housing. At the time, the proposed strategies were largely dependent on whether administrators chose to build a new graduate or undergraduate dormitory. Now that they have decided to close Ashdown and build a new home for 400-500 graduate students, it is time for key administrators to put their long-term plans on the table and open the floor to discussion.

Editorial

The mandate for change is clear. Every year, the need to renovate the East Campus and Burton-Conner dormitories grows more dire. The tremendous growth in the graduate student population over the past twenty years has caused the demand for housing in Cambridge to skyrocket, yet supply has not grown to match. Random Hall, despite its longevity, is not a physical building MIT expects to keep for the next 50 years. Solving these problems requires major construction that will displace students from up to five dormitories over ten years.

However, drastic changes in housing are dangerous in that they threaten to disrupt the cultures of dormitories, which contribute much of the vibrancy of student life. These communities have evolved over decades through the efforts of many students. If administrators seize control of this process, they threaten to destroy the very system they wish to improve. Therefore, the only way this redesign of student housing can succeed is if it is driven primarily by the energy and passion of students. When the first major housing decision since freshmen living on campus endan-

gers a community 68 years old, we are right to voice concern that we are starting a race with a lame horse, destined to limp along with only administrators driving it.

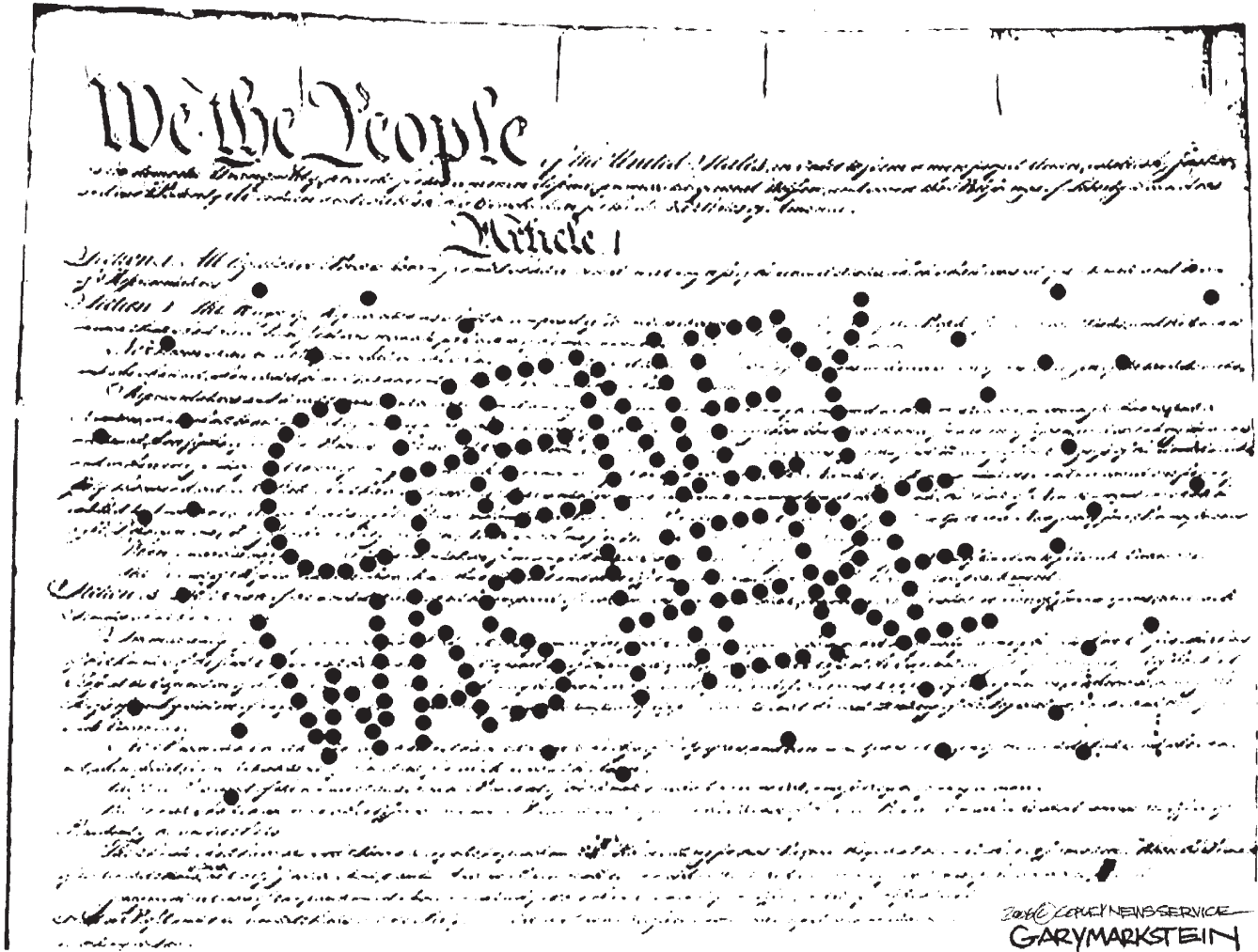
Students can successfully contribute to and lead the coming changes, if they are kept well-informed and if administrators consider their views before decisions are made. Understandably, many administrators prefer to keep their plans quiet until they have mapped out their preferred route. When questions arise regarding evaluation of complex financial and logistical problems, it makes sense not to broadcast the details to all students. However, when the question is about a general policy that affects all students and depends on them for its success, a closed-mouth approach will alienate those it should engage. Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, and Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert should now actively explain to all students the constraints and options for housing being considered for the next ten years.

We must, of course, meet them halfway. The Dormitory Council needs to step up and take a visible role in understanding and voicing student concerns. Ashdown residents have already started to give input about their new dormitory to administrators, despite having been excluded as a group from deciding whether to move at all. It is unclear if the Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council are up to the challenge of making a serious contribution. Together, students and administrators can address some of the long-standing problems of campus life.

The right first step is creating a transparent public discussion.

Corrections

A headline for a Feb. 10 article about MIT Medical Plans did not accurately reflect the information presented. The headline (on page 17) "Using Wage-Related Premiums, New Plan Works to Offset Costs" is too strong a statement, as the possibility of using wage-related premiums in the healthcare plan is only under speculation, and has not implemented. The Feb. 14, page 17 credits for photography by David Templeton and Christina Kang were swapped.



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Building a New Ashdown

Barun Singh

The recent news of MIT's plans to relocate the Ashdown community to a new residence hall comes as little surprise to many of us. The Institute has tried to convert Ashdown into an undergraduate residence no less than half a dozen times, but previous attempts have been met with fierce resistance from the graduate population. This time around is different, partially because the Institute is providing a new residence hall in exchange. When planning for this new residence hall, it is important to note that the Ashdown community is being relocated, not replaced. The transition creates challenges that must be addressed in terms of how to preserve as much of Ashdown's culture as possible, and also presents opportunities to learn from history.

It's pointless to argue at this stage that MIT shouldn't relocate Ashdown. It solves many long-standing problems and makes financial sense (though there are likely other fiscally responsible alternatives). As this relocation occurs, however, it may be tempting to model the building after other residences in the area, such as Sidney-Pacific. Doing so would be a very serious mistake.

When considering the relocation of Ashdown, most students may have difficulty un-

derstanding exactly what type of impact it may have on the community. Even the Graduate Student Council seems unable to see beyond the number of beds and the rent, saying it would be "somewhat bizarre for graduate students to be disappointed" about the relocation. The impact of Ashdown, however, goes far beyond monetary issues, and making this transition a success requires an appreciation for those things that make Ashdown so unique.

By the time it is converted in 2008, Ashdown will have had a 70-year history as a graduate residence. Its first housemaster, "Doc" Avery Allen Ashdown, served as housemaster from the dormitory's inception until he reached the age of mandatory retirement 24 years later. He truly considered the residence (at that time known as "Graduate House") to be his home, and cared so much for it that his ashes were buried at his request in the Ashdown courtyard.

Most of the current residents of Ashdown weren't even born during most of Doc Ashdown's time as housemaster. Yet the story of his commitment, like the dozens of other stories about Ashdown, deeply connects residents with the history and culture of the place (see <http://web.mit.edu/ashdown/history/> for more). A resident of Ashdown feels like part of a tradition. When residents of Ashdown

move into the new building (Doc Ashdown was the housemaster of Graduate House, and his memory is associated with the Ashdown community, not the physical space), how do we make sure that the traditions and sense of history move to the new building along with the residents?

One part of Ashdown's history that could provide lessons for future planning is the successful dining program. Ashdown used to have an exceptional dining hall that was closed down in the mid-70s when Lobdell was created. The dining hall provided quality, affordability, and convenience. Thirty years later, MIT has been unable to replicate the success of this program. Instead, we seem to have given up and instead of finding a way to make residential dining work for graduate students, the new "solution" is to put small kitchens in every apartment. Both options provide convenience for students, but while the old Ashdown dining program promoted discussions and interaction, a kitchen in every room promotes isolation. This is one example of a larger issue. Instead of trying to provide sustainable, high quality programming (such as a good residential dining program), the Institute has often opted to spend even more money in investments that are sub-optimal in terms of long-term planning. Can't we do better this time around?

A key part of Ashdown's culture is the role of the Ashdown House Executive Committee. AHEC evolved organically into what it is today, and because of this, it has found a way to make all residents feel comfortable and willing to participate in a way that has yet to be replicated in any other graduate residence. No

member of AHEC is, or ever has been, more valuable in any way than any other resident of Ashdown. Issues in Ashdown are discussed in open forums, AHEC holds no secret meetings, and all residents directly choose its members — these are all critical components of Ashdown's community, and must be preserved.

Finally, in planning the new residence, one must understand how the physical characteristics of W-1 have fostered a sense of home and community for the residents. Common spaces, a prominent example being the Thirsty Ear Pub, have been a critical element in this and the new residence must be able to accommodate these being moved as well. Similarly, Ashdown isn't just sterile drywall and cheap carpeting in box-shaped rooms. When you enter into the building, it feels much more comfortable and inviting than an apartment building or most of MIT's newer residences. To preserve the cultural traditions of Ashdown, it is important to consider the architectural heritage as well.

The decision to relocate Ashdown is final, but the plans for the new building are not. Students have successfully influenced Institute planning in the past, and there is an opportunity to do so here; it just takes some passion and a willingness. This relocation can result in the destruction of the one of the oldest graduate communities in the country, or it can become another part of Ashdown's long and rich history. Which will it be?

Barun Singh is a graduate student and former resident of both Ashdown and Sidney-Pacific dormitories. He welcomes comments and responses to this article at his Web site <http://barunsingh.com/>.

The impact of Ashdown, however, goes far beyond monetary issues, and making this transition a success requires an appreciation for those things that make Ashdown so unique.

Being Constructive With Cartoons

Wajahat F. Khan,
Imran A. Hendley,
Ali K. Alhassani,
Nadeem A. Mazen

The "Cartoon Controversy" has garnered quite a bit of media attention over the last few weeks. The media first focused on the Muslim reactions to the cartoons, which included the Iranian boycott of Danish products, and violent riots in countries like Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Pakistan, and Indonesia. The Muslim Student Association Executive Committee condemns the violent responses perpetrated by a minority of Muslims seeking to make an immediate response rather than an intelligent one. Islam teaches that one is not accountable for the actions of another: there is no Islamic basis for collective punishment.

More recently, writers have become interested in the touchier themes underlying the issue, including free speech, American views of Islam, double-standards in the media, and Islamic tenets.

In Tuesday's edition of *The Tech*, Brian M. Loux G states that the media's responsibility is to convey the truth and to facilitate dialogue, and if it chooses not to publish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, then it is practicing self-censorship. It is more reasonable to assume, however, that the media simply does not see anything constructive about publishing the cartoons, rather than argue that they are obstructing truth or dialogue with this decision.

Loux's column represents some of the misconceptions held by many members of the Western media. For instance, he states that depicting the Prophet Muhammad is "strictly forbidden by the Qu'ran." This is untrue; in

fact, there are historical examples of Muslim artwork depicting the Prophet Muhammad, where the intention was to capture important events in his life. But a halo is depicted in place of his face, for any representation of his features would inevitably be inaccurate. Over time, however, Muslim scholars came to the consensus that even these representations should be avoided. One reason that depicting the Prophet (or any prophet for that matter) is offensive to Muslims is that any depiction will necessarily misrepresent him and essentially reduce him to something that he is not. There are many more reasons, but discussing all of them is beyond the scope of

We just recommend that in the future, authors and cartoonists choose more constructive ways to exercise their freedom of expression.

this article. Cartoons which associate Islam's prophet with stereotypes of terrorists are especially inciteful, for in a time of a war on terror, Muslims have reason to be outraged by something which is effectively putting the "terrorist" label on them as a group.

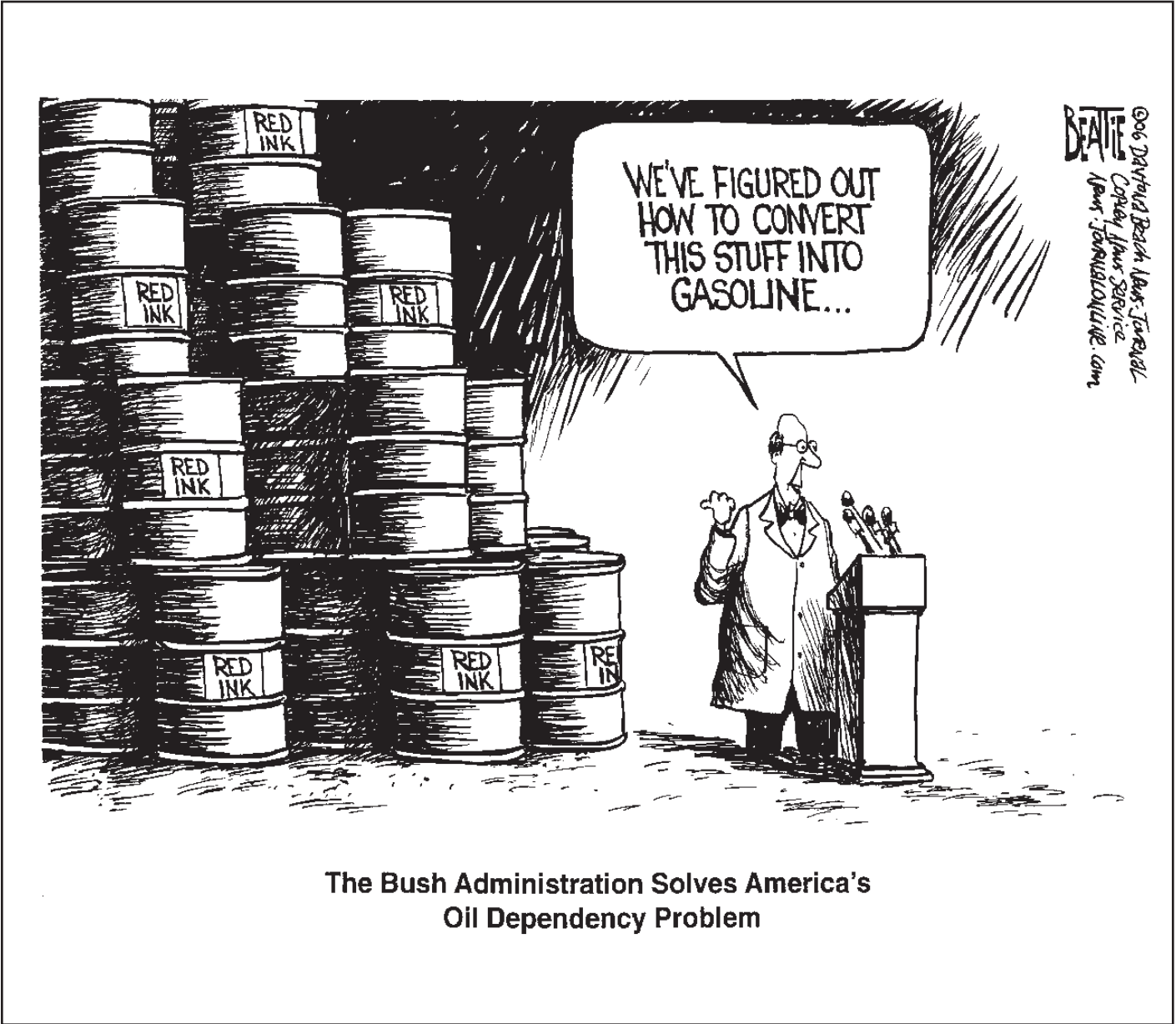
Another frequent misconception in this controversy is that freedom of speech is the end-all, universal defense. Freedom of speech is an essential feature of any society in which everyone is entitled to his or her own values. But there is a difference between freedom of speech and contributing to a constructive dialogue. The controversial cartoons do not present any new idea that the public can choose to accept or reject.

The defense of the cartoons for the sake of humor is flawed as well. Humor is not inherently offensive. A more accurate statement would be: humor gets more offensive as it gets less creative, with the least creative jokes being downright racist.

Many Muslim students at MIT were deeply hurt by Loux's cartoon and we are still asking ourselves: "what is the benefit of offending us, if no constructive dialogue is formed?" If the media genuinely wants to promote dialogue about the limits of tolerance in Islam, then there are plenty of non-offensive, constructive ways to initiate debate. And if they had chosen any of those avenues, then we would probably be much further along with discussion by now.

The Nobel Laureate and playwright George Bernard Shaw wrote, "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it." Using free speech to offend a minority group just because one can does not promote pluralism. We just recommend that in the future, authors and cartoonists choose more constructive ways to exercise their freedom of expression. Muslims can move forward by calling for an end to violent protests and destruction of property by other Muslims, and by reaching out more to those around them. The Prophet Muhammad never answered an injustice with more injustice; instead, he practiced mercy and forgiveness. In reacting to the cartoon controversy, Muslims should follow his example and look for opportunities to identify and correct their own weaknesses and to promote tolerance and understanding between themselves and members of other groups. The MIT Muslim Students Association invites anyone to approach us with questions or concerns about this issue or about Islam in general.

Wajahat F. Khan '07, Imran A. Hendley '06, Ali K. Alhassani '08, and Nadeem A. Mazen '06 collaborated with other members of the Muslim Student Association Executive Committee in writing this column.



The Bush Administration Solves America's Oil Dependency Problem

ARTS

PANEL REVIEW

*Film and Presentation on the Cuban Five**Chomsky Discusses Forty Years of U.S. Aggression Towards Cuba*

By Nikhil Nadkarni

STAFF WRITER

*Noam Chomsky Presents Panel on Terrorism and Film Showing on the Cuban Five 10-250**Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.*

On the night of September 12, 1998, FBI agents raided the homes of five Cuban men living in Florida and placed them under arrest, charging them with espionage and conspiracy. Convicted in an extremely controversial trial, the men received life terms and, despite much outcry, remain in jail today. Are these men really conspirators? Or are they merely victims of the latest U.S. aggression towards Cuba? Their plight and the controversy surrounding it are the focus of “Mission Against Terror,” a documentary by Irish filmmaker Bernie Dwyer. Dwyer recently held a screening of the film at MIT, in conjunction with a panel discussion on U.S.-Cuba relations led by MIT’s famed political writer Noam Chomsky.

A large assortment of people, who filled 10-250 to its capacity of 450, were fascinated as “Mission Against Terror” examined the story behind the Cubans’ imprisonments, and they leaned forward with anticipation as the several eloquent panelists discussed forty years of aggression between the U.S.

and Cuba. The panel consisted of Chomsky, Dwyer herself, and Father Geoffrey Bottoms, a British national who is leading a movement to free the five.

Back in the 1960s, the CIA trained dozens of right-wing groups in Miami to carry out subversive activity in Cuba, according to the panelists. Today, it is said, the remnants of those groups continue to sneak into Cuba to carry out hotel bombings and other terrorist activities. In the ’90s, the Cuban government, in an attempt to prevent further terrorism, sent the five men to Miami to infiltrate the right-wing groups. These men committed no crime, according to the film, but were jailed for espionage and conspiracy. Their trial was held in Miami, notorious for anti-Cuba sentiment, and it is said that the defense lawyers were denied access to important evidence. Despite much advocacy from humanitarian groups, the five were also denied basic visitation rights in prison, and have not seen their families in the past seven years. However, after a great deal of activism, a retrial has been granted and will begin, in fact, this very week.

“Mission Against Terror,” approximately forty minutes in length, provides a thorough understanding of the plight of the so-called Cuban Five. Much of the film’s beginning revolves around an interview with Philip Agee,

former CIA agent and notable dissenter, as he discusses the subversive activities that the CIA planned in the 1960s. The movie then moves to the Cuban Five and the ’90s, when right-wing, Miami-based groups bombed Cuban hotels and the Tropicana nightclub. While it is unclear if the CIA still supports these groups, the ties of the U.S. to such violent crime are shown to be shady. The film notes, for example, the case of Orlando Bosch, the mastermind behind the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner. Bosch took refuge in the U.S., received a presidential pardon from George H.W. Bush, and today lives as a free man in Miami.

In studying these cases, the film does an excellent job of investigative journalism. With respect to more than a few aspects, however, it starts to falter. Some of the conversations are subtitled in English, and others are subtitled in Spanish. The film also transitions choppy, so that it’s not always clear what trial they are talking about, and it sometimes goes into detail on an irrelevant side story. In the end, however, it educates the viewer about the Cuban Five. It studies the unfairness of their trial, their prison conditions, and the successful activism that got them out of solitary confinement. The film provokes outrage, and in that it achieves its purpose.

After the film, the panelists answered

questions posed by the audience. Chomsky, with extreme eloquence, devoted extensive time to speak about the forty years of aggression the U.S. expressed towards Fidel Castro’s Cuba. He noted that America, in a Monroe Doctrinesque way, could not stand to have a Western Hemisphere country that wasn’t under its thumb. As he put it, “successful defiance is not acceptable.” When it comes to the pursuit of cornering, isolating, and otherwise undermining Cuba, he noted, “the fanaticism is extreme.”

Father Bottoms, one of the few who have been allowed to visit the Cuban prisoners, also proved to be an excellent panelist, speaking calmly and convincingly about ways to educate the world about political prisoners. He also did not balk at bashing his homeland, saying that Britain has long treated Ireland the same way as the U.S. treats Cuba. The third panelist, Dwyer, spoke passionately about the right-wing Miami-based groups that have continually harassed Cuba.

Much of the crowd was in its 40’s or 50’s, and, among the students, very few MIT undergraduates could be seen. Across all these groups was a perceptible liberalism, with many long-haired guys and dreadlocks in sight. With any luck, the panelists and film have converted this political sentiment into grassroots activism.

THEATER REVIEW

*Urinetown: It’ll Remind You of What You Know**Musical Spoof Is a Jumble of a Journey*

By Rosa Cao

STAFF WRITER

*Urinetown**MIT Musical Theatre Guild**Produced by Matt Ciborowski ’08**Directed by Tim Abrahamsen ’06**With Steven Flowers ’06, Nori Pritchard ’06, Nicolina Akrahoff ’07, Darrell Cain ’08, Koyel Bhattacharyya ’09**La Sala de Puerto Rico**Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 2-4, 2006*

Urinetown is death. Urinetown is misery. You *really* don’t want to be in Urinetown. Here you are, however, facing a grim little stage with a riff-raff of raggedy performers and an orchestra just out of tune enough to reinforce the general rundown atmosphere.

Yes, you’re in Urinetown, a peri-apocalyptic pasquinade where the stars are piss, desperation, and poverty with a capital pee. Lest a sudden urge to biological necessity discourage you from reading further, let me say quickly: there are plenty of laughs and appealing moments amidst the general squalor in this raucous spoof.

Among the most memorable were Bobby Strong et al.’s hilarious rendition of “Run, Freedom, Run,” a simultaneous send-up of pretentious a capella arrangements performed by

Preppy Young Things, and the Black Preacher Man leading his congregation in a rousing spiritual.

There’s the token mad scientist, decked out in goggles and a bouffant cap. His helpless laughing spasms, hapless warnings, and bunny capers were a screeching hit. It seems that even at MIT, the nerd gets no respect.

Blondes, on the other hand, really do have more fun. Nori Pritchard ’06 hits just the right note with Hope Cladwell, the pure-hearted daughter of corporate goon Caldwell B. Cladwell (Darrell Cain ’08), taking her from the joys of faxing and copying to her very own moment as Evita.

Then there’s Koyel Bhattacharyya ’09, who made a deeply satisfying Penelope Pennywise: smart, tough, and (of course) with that good heart and tragic romantic history you always suspected was hiding under the callous exterior.

It would be unfair, too, not to mention what a great job Caitlin Shindler ’03 did with the costumes. Such artful rags, such pointed elegance. Here were social, economic, and personal char-

acter given perfect sartorial expression.

“Urinetown” takes a little while to get going, and yet manages not to present much content that’s worthy of analysis. There’s a weird undertow that prevents even the microcosm of Urinetown from making sense. We find the common man would lay waste to environmental resources while UGC “Urine Good Company” is committed to rationing it and practicing conservation. Corporations replace government as Big Brother, monitoring everyone’s pee. Is this the tragedy of the commons updated for a century of environmental disaster, perhaps? How does a drought affect peeing, anyway? ...

I give up.

Gilbert and Sullivan — the original musical satirists — used stock characters with ridiculous names in ridiculous scenarios, clever libretti, and catchy melodies with timely political commentary to balance the comedy. By contrast, the song-and-dance numbers in “Urinetown” are far more impressive for their choreography and physical panache (kudos to Janet Lieberman ’07 and the featured dancers) than for musical or other content.

Yes, you’re in Urinetown, a per-apocalyptic pasquinade where the stars are piss, desperation, and poverty with a capital pee.

ART REVIEW

*Colorful America Presented in List Gallery**Talk by Artist Mel Ziegler Illuminates Themes of Exhibit*

By Natania Antler

STAFF WRITER

*America Starts Here: Kate Ericson and Mel Ziegler**Retrospective Exhibition at List Visual Arts Center**Feb. 9 to April 9, 2006*

Trekking out in the cold to E15 to hear a talk by an artist was the last thing I felt like doing as Friday evening rolled around. Even so, I got myself to the Bartos Theater and was pleasantly surprised to discover that Mel Ziegler’s talk was interesting enough to hold my attention, so much so that I was disappointed when it ended. Ziegler spoke about his twenty year collaboration with Kate Ericson, which tragically ended when she died of cancer in 1995. The fruits of this collaboration are now on display in the List Visual Arts Center Gallery. In his talk, Ziegler illuminated the themes, justification, and thought processes behind much of their work.

My favorite piece Ziegler described was “If You Would See The Monument Look Around.” Ziegler and Ericson borrowed many gardening tools from the staff that maintains Central Park, painted the handles bronze, printed postcards with an image of the tools artistically arranged, and distributed the postcards around Central Park. In doing this, the artists avoided imposing on the park with a showy bronze statue, but instead drew attention to the park itself and the people who maintain it.

In contrast, a work called “Loaded Text,” done in 1989, was less subtle and raised the ire of many residents of Durham, NC, where the piece was displayed. It featured the “two artists handcopying the 65-page text of a downtown-revitalization plan for Durham, N.C., onto one of the city’s badly cracked sidewalks,” according to the List Web site. Ziegler said that the pair learned their lesson and later held public meetings whenever they planned to do something that would affect a community.

“Camouflaged History,” done in 1991, is another of my favorites. The artists painted a camouflage pattern onto a house in a historic district of Charleston, with each color from the approved palette under preservation laws. One can see a model on display at the exhibit, where the names of the colors on the house are listed, including the best of all, “Huguenot Mustard!”

The day after the talk, I went to see the exhibit. Across from the main gallery is a room with two screens displaying slideshows of the artists’ work: most of these pieces were temporary large-scale works, many in the public realm. One should spend some time in this room to get a feel for what these artists cared about before entering the main exhibition area, three well-organized rooms where one can see the work up close.

One such piece, “Statue of Liberty” (1988) consisted of several clear jars of paint, with the name of each color sandblasted on the front of the jar. The jars were then arranged vertically, each color corresponding to the various colors

on the Statue of Liberty. I found it to be a nice contrast to some of their other works that play with the traditional ideas of monuments and color palettes.

The exhibit also included some sketches done on napkins of works that were never realized because of Ericson’s death. My favorite of these, which depicted a whimsical house with water spurting out the top (“house fountain”), brought a touch of sadness because it reminded that the collaboration is no more.

As a layman in world of art, I found that Ziegler’s talk really helped me to understand what was happening in some of the pieces. It is possible to appreciate the art on its own terms without the context that he gave in the talk, but it helped me to have someone point out important themes of their work. I recommend reading up on the pair before going to the exhibit — or at the very least reading the placards and other printed explanations to get a context for this fascinating, but at times obscure, art. Ziegler’s next talk will be on Feb. 25.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

Beethoven Is King at Symphony Hall

BSO Steps Up to Challenging Program

By Jacqueline O'Connor
ARTS EDITOR

Boston Symphony Orchestra
James Levine, conductor
Jonathan Biss, piano
Miriam Fried, violin
Ralph Kirshbaum, cello
Symphony Hall, Boston
Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.

As in every concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the baton of James Levine, this all-Beethoven concert started sluggishly. Not deterred by the mediocrity of the opening, though, the BSO eventually brought the audience to its feet in what turned out to be one of its most fantastic performances. The program began with Beethoven's Second Symphony, Op. 36, and his Concerto in C for piano, violin, and cello, also known as "The Triple Concerto." After intermission, the concert concluded with the real highlight of the evening, a stellar performance of Symphony No. 7, Op. 92.

Levine chose the pieces for this program not only to highlight the brilliance of Beethoven, but also to show the progression of his work throughout the middle composing period of his life. In his program notes, Levine states that "planning this all-Beethoven program in the context of our Beethoven/Schoenberg cycle afforded a special kind of opportunity — to choose not just 'any great Beethoven masterpieces' that might work well in a single concert, but to program several of the composer's masterpieces that relate specifically to how he developed or adjusted his musical style and language at different times in his career." Levine's goal was certainly realized throughout the night, as it was very clear from the programming, as well as the artistic interpretation of the works, that a metamorphosis was happening in the work of this legendary composer.

Though it started without much energy, the BSO's performance of Symphony No. 2 still showed the essence of early Beethoven and the classical influence. The Adagio molto that opens the piece was played with disinterest and strict rhythm, instead of a graceful melodic feel that one would expect. However, with the Allegro con brio, the second theme of the piece, the orchestra seemed to wake up, and despite some coordination issues between some of the string sections during the fast passages, the piece became much more enjoyable to listen to. The second movement followed in the vein of the opening of the first — intonation issues and a lack of mysterious and expression made this otherwise gorgeous movement sound quite trite. Despite the faulty start, though, the last two movements were excellent. The pronounced dynamic contrasts and fun conversation between string sections highlighted the Scherzo movement. The piece ended with a fantastic Allegro molto where for the first time in the concert, the orchestra appeared to be enjoying the music it was playing.

Overall, the concert was shaping up to be very good. Though the winds could have played out more in the more melodic parts and the strings could have put more intrigue into the continuo parts, the BSO found a remarkable classical sound. As a result, the very enthusiastic audience responded well after the first piece.

Beethoven's concertos, for any instrument, are truly exceptional in the way they were written for the orchestra — until the soloists begin to play, the music is so rich and bold that one could mistake it for a symphony. This is certainly true in the opening of Beethoven's Triple Concerto, the second piece on Saturday evening's program. The soloists were a delightful bunch, the pianist was actually the son of the violinist, and the three of them certainly seemed to enjoy the performance. Who could

blame them? This piece captures the best of both worlds — the excitement and virtuosity of a concerto and the intimacy and harmony of chamber music. There were many times, especially in the second and third movements, where the feel of a duet or a trio was so pronounced it was easy to forget that the orchestra was there.

For the most part, the soloists were excellent, especially in the final and most difficult movement, Rondo alla Polacca. This movement featured a lively tempo and very intricate tutti passages where all three soloists seemed surprisingly comfortable and expressive. The cellist, Ralph Kirshbaum, stole the show, as was probably Beethoven's intention. All three movements feature gorgeous cello solos in a difficult high register of the instrument. Despite this, Kirshbaum was able to make the instrument project and sing quite beautifully. The pianist, Jonathan Biss, played quite expressively and especially well in the final movement. Unfortunately, violinist Miriam Fried was disappointing in comparison to the other two soloists. She had many intonation issues in the first two movements and despite the beautiful melodies in her part, she could not seem to produce a pleasing tone in the first and second movements. This changed, however, in the third when a brighter tone was called for; it became obvious that she had practiced this movement a little more than the others.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 is truly one of the greatest pieces ever written, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra's performance brought out all the beauty and greatness of the piece. This symphony is a wonderful balance between ensemble playing and several excellent solo lines. The ensemble playing was quite good at the coda of the first movement and the last two movements. The third movement, a Presto, was played especially well and accurately. Historically, James Levine lets rhythmic togetherness slide in the name of in-

terpretation, but on Saturday night the orchestra was dead-on. The final movement, Allegro con brio, was triumphant, highlighting the brilliance of this orchestra.

Several excellent solo sections added sparkle to the already solid performance. The oboist, who opens the piece, was in excellent form and managed to produce a very lyrical sound. The flutist, who brings in the second theme of the first movement, was especially good and defined the Vivace mood for the rest of the movement. Above all, though, the French Horn section must be commended for their excellent performance. Their versatility shook the hall at the end of the first movement, brought tears to the eyes of listeners in the second movement, and moved people to their feet at the end of the piece.

The only flaws of the second half were in the tempos chosen for the second and third movements. The Allegretto, an interesting marking for what sounds like a death march, was a bit too fast and lost some of the somber lyricism for which this piece is known. Also, the second theme in the third movement (played by the wind section), which almost sounds like a hunting call, was played much too quickly and lost the stately air it was supposed to have.

James Levine described this concert as an example of how Beethoven progressed during his middle period of composing. In reality, this concert just showed how much the famous composer stayed the same. Each piece, though progressively less classical and more romantic in nature, is built on simple scales and arpeggios that are given ingenious twists and rhythms to produce some of the most enjoyable and incredible music ever written. Though this middle period, Beethoven not only retained his technical grounding, but also the grace, power, and genius of his art. The Boston Symphony Orchestra certainly rose to the occasion and did justice to the only name above the stage at Symphony Hall — Beethoven.



JOEL SADLER
B-Flat, known for only doing shows with her boots off, performs at the Comedy Collage in Kresge Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 11.

BOOK REVIEW

New Author Tells a Story

Of Teenage Addiction

'For the Angels are Dead' a Strong First Effort

By Jillian Berry
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

"For the Angels are Dead"
Andy Bilger
Taylor-Dth Publishing
Released December 30, 2005

In Andy Bilger's "For the Angels are Dead," the first novel from this self-published author, we follow Addison, a troubled teen from middle class suburbia, as he comes of age in the heart of Mexico. Faced with parents who view his very existence as a problem, Addison finds himself in military school with no hope of getting let out in the near future. So Addison flees Texas and travels to Mexico with Luke (a brother-like figure) to escape all the people controlling his life. Once in Mexico, we see him lose control of his life and ruin the lives of those around him with the help of alcohol, pills, and cocaine. Addison is trapped in a downward spiral of loss and drugs, and throughout his journey, he is visited in his dreams by angels who wish the worst for him. The "angels" show him his darkest fears and laugh with excitement when he loses or fails.

In "For the Angels are Dead," Bilger attempts to convey the underside of the middle class belly. Addison does not learn how to get high from some gang member or drug dealer, but from his parents, who appear to be successful corporate employees, but retire to separate bedrooms with their drinks and "little blue friends" when they go home. When their son gets into trouble, rather than trying to understand the problem, they ship him away.

In addition, Bilger shows the development of an addiction through the eyes of a teenager. Addison starts by drinking too much, but he soon adds pills and eventually coke to his routine. He knows that he has an addiction, as there are few times in the book when he is not drinking or looking for a beer. However, as he drinks more and more and his life begins to unravel, he relies on the alcohol and pills to escape.

Addison is always running away from something, but he never runs into something good. Bilger successfully conveys this message without an overly sentimental story. Almost like a modern Holden Caulfield, Addison's thoughts are always his own, and not those of a righteous boy trying to turn his life around. In fact, I was almost frustrated by his inability to change, but in the end it was necessary for the character. Also, I have never read a work in which angels represent an almost evil spirit. Nothing about Addison makes him the typical protagonist of a novel.

The major problem I had with the book was its use of numerous changes in setting. Addison skips between different times from an eight year period, providing little evidence whether he is having a flashback or in the present. I understand that this format is the most realistic, since our minds often jump from the present to different points in the past without warning. Nonetheless, the skipping around makes the work harder to comprehend, and distracts the reader from the story.

My only other qualm is related to the actually printing. This book is a self-published work, and as such has many typos. I know editors can miss these things, but Bilger never uses "too" correctly. This may seem like nit-picking, but I found the errors off-putting and quite annoying.

Overall, "For the Angels are Dead" is an interesting look at the life of a teenage addict. Even though it may not be the type of light reading that you want during the semester, it is good for a break.

FILM REVIEW ½

‘Something New’ is Nothing New

Latest Boy-Meets-Girl Story Lacks Originality and Intrigue

By George S. Zaidan

Something New

Directed by Sanaa Hamri

Written by Kriss Turner

Starring Sanaa Lathan and Simon Baker

Focus Features

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

Something New” is the story of Kenya McQueen (Sanaa Lathan), the driven businesswoman who can’t seem to find time for love. It’s also the story of Brian the Landscaper (Simon Baker), the gentle gardener who can’t help but love everything he touches. You don’t need to see the movie to guess what happens next: boy and girl get set up on blind date, boy meets girl, girl is shocked to find boy is white ... hold up. What? Oh, sorry. I guess I should have mentioned that Kenya is black and Brian is white.

Written by Kriss Turner (“Whoopi,” “The Bernie Mac Show”), the movie’s plot is as conventional as any other romantic comedy. It hits all the requisite points, including the awkward boy-girl meeting, the falling-in-love-to-music montage, the other man, and the inevitable marriage at the end. The only difference is that “Something New” plays the race card. To fully understand the movie and how it compares to its predecessors like “Crash,” we need some additional tools.

If you ever happen to take a class with Professor David Thorburn, one of the first television scholars, you will hear about the Consensus Narrative system, a medium through which a society discusses its mainstream values, continually challenging them with older, more traditional values, and newer, emerging ones. Well-worn genres are especially important in the Consensus Narrative system, as their familiar plots, styles, and characters provide a safe haven where new ideas can be discussed.

The Consensus Narrative system has some interesting side effects: texts that present some form of emergent value — say, an interracial relationship — cannot jump into deep discussions, at least at first. Why? If the discussion is too seri-



FOCUS FEATURES

Brian (Simon Baker) and Kenya (Sanaa Lathan) hesitantly meet on a blind date in “Something New.”

ous or too penetrating, the text risks marginalizing itself and reducing its impact (assuming it gets funded in the first place).

True to form, “Something New” brings little new material to the conversation on race in America. Disturbingly, it may even degrade the debate by introducing us to a whole cast of utterly one-dimensional characters. Brian is simply too good to be true — not only is he tolerant of everything and everyone, but he almost refuses to believe that racism exists. He protests that he “wasn’t raised that way.” Give me a break. Anyone raised on this planet knows about the added pressures of being a minority in a white America.

Incidentally, we have no clue how Brian is raised — we never see his parents (or, indeed,

any relatives). It’s an important and inexplicable omission, especially given that Kenya’s parents are featured prominently.

To be fair, for a brief moment Brian lets his utopian guard down and shows that he is a believable character, with sensitivities and prejudices. This is the best scene in the film. Too bad it’s only about two minutes out of 99. Those in the movie who are racist or prejudiced, such as the fat old white guy who blatantly refuses to trust Kenya with his finances, are mere caricatures. Notably, there’s his polar opposite: Kenya’s boss, who is, if possible, even more pure than Brian, and staunchly stands by Kenya’s every decision. These characters are about as convincing as a politician’s pledge during an election year.

Technically, the movie is unspectacular, sometimes downright bad. During one scene the camera dizzily circles the characters for 3 full minutes, and the damn thing can never seem to focus on Brian’s face. Editing, music, composition — all mediocre.

“Something New” is a movie designed for the Consensus Narrative system. The problem is, film is no longer the consensus medium. In fact, it hasn’t been since television started taking over in the fifties. The movie doesn’t need to trivialize its discussion. Look at “Crash,” a film that deals with race in a much more serious and systematic way. Don’t get me wrong — I don’t think “Crash” is a truly great movie. But it sure is better than this crap.

FILM REVIEW ★★

‘Eight Below’ a Warm Antarctic Movie

Disney Brings the Canine Connection to the Big Screen

By Alice Macdonald

Eight Below

Directed by Frank Marshall

Screenplay by David Digilio

Starring Paul Walker, Jason Biggs, Moon

Bloodgood

Walt Disney Pictures

Rated PG

Now Playing

OK, I admit it, I did not decide to review Disney’s latest inspiring Antarctic adventure film out of my love for Huskies. I was planning to watch the movie and then systematically rip it to shreds in my review. To my surprise, upon actually seeing “Eight Below” — which stars Paul Walker, Jason Biggs, and God knows how many dogs — I have to admit that it was not the worst movie I have seen this past year.

The chief faults of “Eight Below” are its lack of depth and forgettable plot — there is none of the complex storyline, interesting characters, and creativity that make excellent action/adventure movies. Thanks to beautiful scenery, lots of melodramatic music, and sporadic exciting scenes, many viewers, especially those who are a little younger, will not miss these elements. Don’t get me wrong — this is definitely not a film strictly for kids — the dogs don’t talk, and at 120 minutes, it’s probably too long and boring for little ones.

The film opens with seemingly endless shots of expansive wintry landscapes. The filmmakers did a great job here, as these shots are gorgeous. Once the people enter, however, it becomes clear that the movie is not subtle. The script force-feeds every element of the film to the audience, so that nobody has to think. All the characters and conflicts are established very quickly, an easy task considering how shallow and uncomplicated they are. Gerry (Paul Walker) is a guide who really likes his sled dogs, Charlie (Jason Biggs) is the comic relief, Katie (Moon Bloodgood) is the girl, and they all laugh and play in Antarctica. The acting is shaky at the start and, regrettably, Jason Biggs is not at all funny. He moves in a large and exaggerated way, which doesn’t seem quite

right. This leads to a couple of moments when even the actors have trouble faking a laugh.

The plot begins with a UCLA scientist arriving to look for a meteorite from Mercury — an incentive I found a tad lame. Although it is late in the season, Gerry decides to take the scientist to a mountain for his research, despite the dangerous weather conditions. The dogs lead them to the peak, where the scientist finds his dumb rock and there is some obvious foreshadowing about scary leopard seal moments to come. Several exciting Antarctic minutes later, Gerry, the scientist, the rock, and the dogs barely make it back to the main camp. They are all forced to evacuate sans pooches because of

an impending storm!

From here on, the movie gets better. The humans take a backseat and the viewers are treated to some terrific canine acting. Each dog has a developed personality and I felt more compassion for these characters than the humans. We watch as most of the eight sled dogs miraculously survive 200 days fending for themselves in the bitter winter. Predictably, Gerry finally finds a way back to his dogs and the scene that follows is clichéd, but bearable. He thinks the dogs are dead, but wait ... he hears barking, and slowly one dog and then the whole pack appears on the horizon, running toward his open arms.

Above all, “Eight Below” is a nature movie riding the waves of last year’s successful “March of the Penguins” and Werner Herzog’s “Grizzly Man.” Perhaps Disney decided to hop on the bandwagon, but had to bastardize the genre with their requisite “Disney” elements — including a gag-inducing scene featuring a shooting star, which made me fear one of the characters would spontaneously break out into a rendition of “When You Wish Upon a Star.” I am happy to say that even Disney can’t completely ruin a good thing; if you need an escape and some brain candy, you could do worse than seeing “Eight Below,” one of Disney’s better efforts in recent years.



WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Gerry Shepherd (Paul Walker) and Old Jack brave the Antarctic in the name of science in “Eight Below.”

FILM REVIEW ★★

Monkey Business for Adults

‘Curious George’ Entertains All Ages

By Yong-yi Zhu
STAFF WRITER

Curious George
Directed by Matthew O’Callaghan
Written by Robert Baird and Dan Gerson
Based on “Curious George” created by H.A. and Margret Rey
Rated G
Now Playing

WE all know Curious George from our childhood, the little monkey whose affinity for the unknown constantly got him into trouble. He entertained us with his adventures and his daring outlook on whatever he wanted to do. We only wished we had as much courage as that little monkey. Now, however, George comes to us on the big screen. The question is whether we, now adults, can sit through an hour and a half of watching a non-talking monkey and man in a bright yellow suit voiced by Will Ferrell. The answer, surprisingly, is an emphatic yes. Sure, there are parts of the movie that are a little slow for adults, but in general it is still enjoyable.

The animation in the film is not very imaginative, but that was never the point of ‘Curious George.’ He is simple yet cute, not detailed but lovable, a character little kids like. The movie stays true to the idea that this is a children’s book without glitz and glamour. True, there are scenes with a more three-dimensional feel, but they’re there mainly to enhance the scenery



George’s curiosity helps him make a new friend in this film version about the classic children’s books character.

and make the experience more modern, rather than to just add pizzazz for the sake of pizzazz. Unfortunately, the problem with having such a simple presentation is that the animation soon gets repetitive. Watching the same expressions appear on George again and again gets tedious at times.

Despite that, what really sells the movie to adults is the amount of emotion generated with such a simple plot. The film follows the man in

the yellow suit, Ted (voiced by Will Ferrell), who needs to go to Africa to find a gigantic lost monkey idol. On his journey, he experiences sabotage and can only manage to find a tiny version of this idol. Thus, the museum he is desperately trying to save plunges into turmoil.

On the trip, Ted meets George and the monkey stows away on the ship to go back to the big city with Ted. George then gets the museum guide into all sorts of trouble, as he causes the

man to be evicted from his apartment and destroys a dinosaur display at the museum. The question is, however, whether Ted will be able to save the museum and put his career and life back on track.

Through this adventure, the audience develops a connection with George and Ted as we believe that monkeys are truly able to empathize with human pain, even if they may look dumb on the outside.

The movie would have lost much of its appeal had the voice-overs not been effective. Will Ferrell was decent, as he somehow managed to convince the audience to take him seriously. The funniest character by far is voiced by Eugene Levy, whose portrayal of the scientist Clovis adds to George’s playful antics to make for some of the funniest scenes in the movie.

Drew Barrymore, however, did a horrible job as the schoolteacher, Maggie. Instead of portraying a legitimate teacher, Barrymore showcases her somewhat ditsy personality in her voice, where ‘Fever Pitch’ meets ‘Never Been Kissed.’ Thank goodness her character was only a small part of the film.

The most delightful aspect of the movie, by far, is the music. Jack Johnson did a terrific job of not only capturing the childishness of the film, but also the emotions that went along with it: despair, joy, and nostalgia. Before long, you may find yourself going out to buy the soundtrack to a movie that is quite funny and enjoyable, even to those over the age of five.

FILM REVIEW ★★

Weak Script Hinders Film About Immorality

Unconvincing Conflicts and Acting in ‘A Good Woman’

By Parama Pal

A Good Woman
Directed by Mike Barker
Written by Howard Himelstein
Starring Helen Hunt, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Wilkinson, Stephen Campbell Moore, Mark Umbers
Rated PG
Now playing

SET in the 1930s, Mike Barker’s “A Good Woman” addresses the issue of what defines a good woman relative to rules of societal morality. Based on Oscar Wilde’s play “Lady Windermere’s Fan,” the story begins with a trio of ladies gossiping about the notorious Mrs. Erlynne (Helen Hunt). It becomes apparent that Erlynne is infamous for having countless affairs with various men to support herself, and that at the moment she is without a benefactor and living in poverty. After setting her sights on a young couple (Robert and Meg Windermere, played by Mark Umbers and Scarlett Johansson) featured in a newspaper article, she goes off to the Italian Riviera in pursuit. The movie follows her apparent seduction of Robert, and shows what happens when a predatory friend of his capitalizes on Meg’s doubts to convince her to leave her husband. Meanwhile, another man (Tom Wilkinson) courts Erlynne, in hopes

that she will accept his hand in marriage. As the story continues, family secrets come to light and the ways in which the characters deal with them make up the true meat of the movie. Scenes change without any transitions, and as a result, the story is stilted and obvious. Despite the title “A Good Woman,” the first two-thirds of the film focus on portraying Erlynne as immoral and materialistic; unfortunately this time could have been much better spent developing the scenes and interactions between the characters. Hunt was only given a few obvious attempts to develop her character through the second half of the film, and her script was somewhat cumbersome. Her artificial lines rob her of a certain sincerity that is essential to addressing the movie’s main question: what defines a good woman? Johansson delivers an average performance, seeming excessively innocent and naïve, a disappointment considering her reputation. Other actors do better, most notably Wilkinson, whose performance is without a doubt the best in the film. Unfortunately, the film ends too neatly, falling into the classic Hollywood trap of building up conflict and then giving every character an easy way out. “A Good Woman” is a movie with an interesting premise, but one that could have been far better presented.



Scarlett Johansson’s dress sparkles more than her acting in this production of “A Good Woman.”

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Inspired brilliance
★★★: Solid filmmaking
★★: Mild entertainment
★: Embarrassing dreck

★★★★ **Brokeback Mountain**
Ang Lee’s gritty and realistic film has been called revolutionary for being a mainstream movie about cowboys who fall in love with each other, but the story is in truth incredibly simple. At its heart, “Brokeback” is a beautifully crafted film that tells a story strikingly similar to some of the oldest tales of love in our society. (Andrew Guerra)

★★★½ **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**
C.S. Lewis wrote a story about the triumph of good over evil (and yes, the Second Coming and the importance of faith), and the loyalty of four brothers and sisters to each other and their friends. Lucy Pevensie steps through a wardrobe of fur coats and finds herself in Narnia, a magical land with talking animals and mythic beasts, and a White Witch who’s covered the land in eternal winter. But there’s no need to look for religious underpinnings when the fantasy easily stands alone. “Narnia” is a wonder-

ful escape within an escape; like the old professor who owns the wardrobe, I can’t wait to go back. (Rosa Cao)

★★½ **Firewall**
Boasting equivocal baddies, a potboiler script, and cookie cutter performances, “Firewall” is a film that’ll see the second-run theaters by Valentine’s Day. Harrison Ford plays Jack Stanfield, a bank security expert whose life and family are threatened when robbers force him to commit electronic theft from his own employers. A great deal of acting talent is wasted on this picture, and unless something great comes along, Ford’s career is essentially over. (Kevin Der)

★★★ **Glory Road**
In sports movies, the important thing is often not the destination, but the journey. This is true in “Glory Road,” the Hollywood retelling of the 1966 Texas Western College basketball team. Texas Western played all black players against the all-white national power Kentucky in the 1966 finals and won. The win inspired a generation of black basketball players like Magic Johnson and Bob McAdoo, who went on to revolutionize the game. The real focus of the

movie is on the players on the team, the racial obstacles they overcame, and how the journey changed them personally. (Brian Chase)

★★★½ **Match Point**
This film deviates from the usual Woody Allen offering. It boasts young, sexy stars and is set in upper-class London instead of his beloved New York. Jonathan Rhys-Meyers plays a young tennis coach who marries into an upper-class British family but falls in love with his brother-in-law’s fiancée, Nola (Scarlett Johansson). The biggest surprise is that this film is a thriller, with each scene building unbearable tension. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★★★ **Munich**
Inspired by the very real events of the 1972 Olympics, when eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists, this perfectly executed film advocates peace and wisdom. With this film, Spielberg intends to show that any conflict affects the globe, and that events in the Middle East are as relevant to our country’s future as those within our own borders. (Kevin Der)

★★½ **Syriana**
Writer and director Stephen Gaghan, who

penned “Traffic,” discusses the energy crisis and the war for oil in this new drama. Part of an ensemble cast, Bob Barnes (George Clooney) is a CIA operative in the Middle East who must protect U.S. interests in oil, but he starts to question his government’s motives. Though Gaghan presents a convincing, albeit pessimistic world view, he does not provide an artistic vision. Ultimately more enjoyment comes after the final reel, from thinking about the questions that the film raises. (Kapil Amarnath)

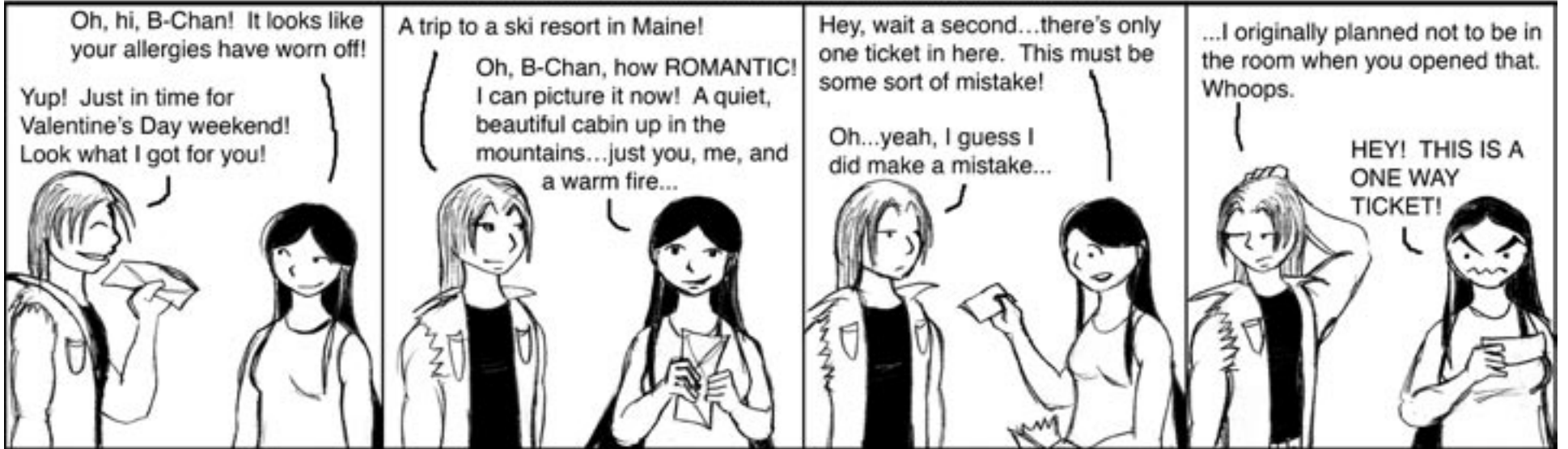
★★★½ **Why We Fight**
Director Eugene Jarecki paints a convincing portrait of how hidden backroom deals turn the government into an oligarchy of elite interests. This political documentary ties together a coherent narrative from a set of perspectives, key facts, and historical contexts. The movie features an NYPD cop who lost a son in 9/11, neoconservative leader William Kristol, a disaffected Pentagon analyst, the pilots who fired the first salvo in the Iraq war, and more. (Beckett Sterner)

Compiled by Kevin Der, Jacqueline O’Connor, and Nivair H. Gabriel

Trio

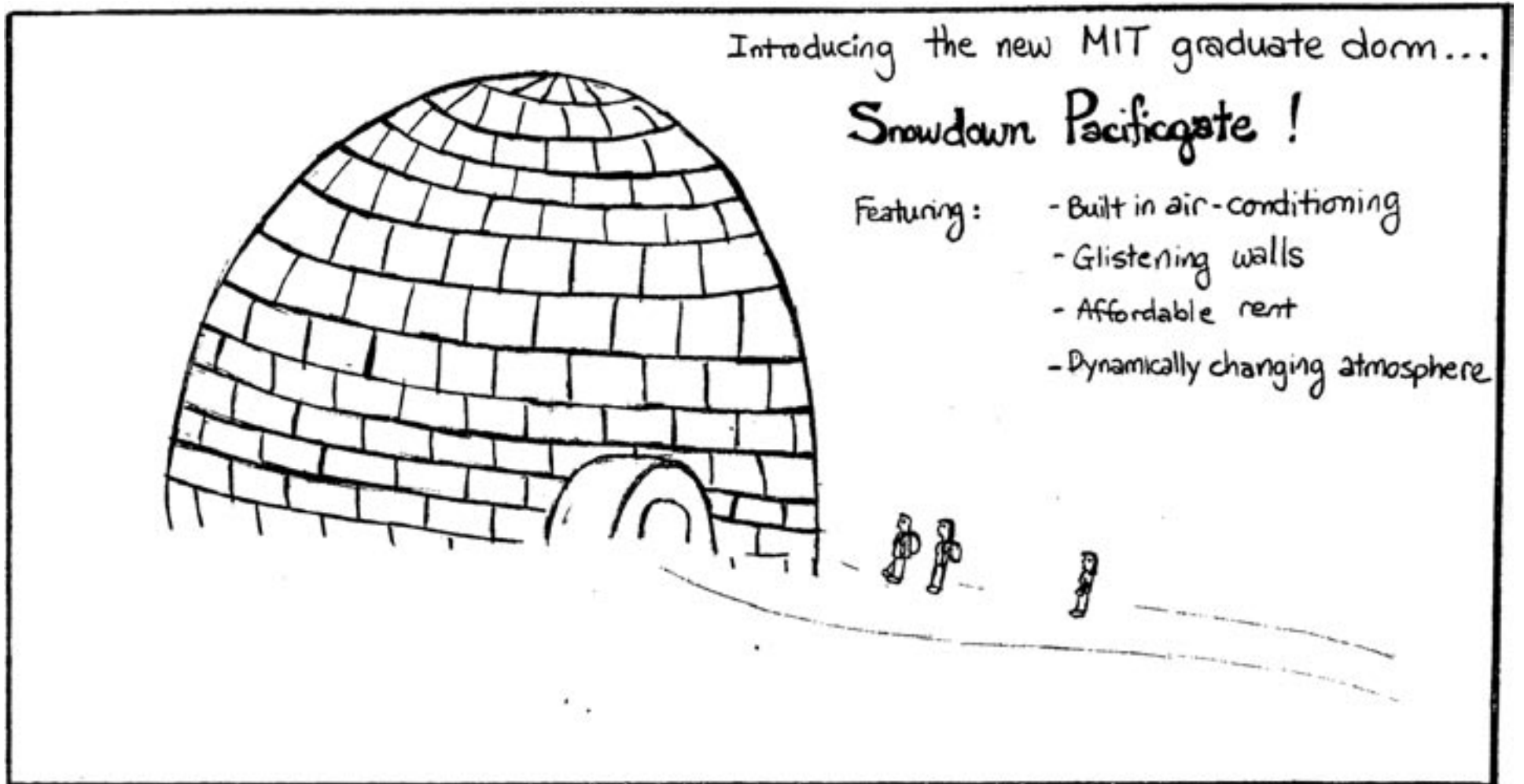
The TRIO Comics website: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

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Profs Discuss Faculty Diversity

By Curt Fischer
STAFF REPORTER

Tracking programs for possible future minority faculty candidates need to be centralized and expanded, several professors recommended at Wednesday's meeting of the faculty. These recommendations were part of a larger discussion that emerged from Provost L. Rafael Reif's January creation of two committees charged with analyzing and improving minority faculty hiring at MIT.

The suggestion to escalate the identification and tracking of future potential faculty candidates among undergraduate and graduate minority students as early as possible was oft-repeated in the faculty's discussion with the chairs of the two committees.

The faculty resolved in 2004 to double the number of minority faculty, and the new committee chairs are aiming to accomplish this goal. "A factor of two is a strong indication of success," said Professor Wesley L. Harris, chair of the Committee on the Retention of Minority Faculty.

Paula T. Hammond, chair of the Minority Faculty Recruitment Committee, agreed. "There are 25 or 30 minority faculty now — fifty would be great," she said.

Coordinating the minority faculty hiring efforts of all of the Institute's departments is another focus of the committees. Harris, Course 16 (Aeronautics and Astronautics) department head, said he would like to see in all of MIT what he sees now in his own department — "a full-court press" on

To recruit more minority faculty, MIT may have to take "odd and uncomfortable" measures, said Chancellor Clay.

junior faculty members they wanted to retain. Harris also said his committee will interview current minorities on the faculty and develop systems for tracking their progress.

Both committees have been charged to report on the minority faculty hiring environment at MIT by May 1, and to propose an action plan for 2007 implementation by October 1.

Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 said that it might be necessary to do something "odd and uncomfortable" to foster minority faculty at MIT. He described his experience as part of Boston area law firms' "total embrace committee" in a past minority recruitment drive, when he wine and dined candidate senior partners for the law firms, and was well aware of his role as "just a face" at the recruiting events.

Clay suggested that one impediment to recruiting minorities may not be obstacles internal to MIT, but the lack of broader lifestyle and collegial opportunities in Boston.

After the minority faculty hiring discussion, President Susan Hockfield recounted to the faculty her experiences from a January trip to Asia, and reported increased opportunities for MIT to engage itself internationally, especially in China. She also said that William B. Bonvillian, new director of MIT's Washington, DC office, planned to expand the MIT/Washington DC Summer Intern Program.

The faculty also unanimously approved Professor Douglas A. Lauffenburger's motion that the Biological Engineering Division assume Course number 20.

For Many, BE Doesn't Match Expectations

BE, from Page 1

tals of Biological Engineering) and the subsequent laboratory course BE.309 (Biological Engineering II: Instrumentation and Measurement), but also on the availability of faculty advisors," she said.

The department was able to increase the lab space for the introductory BE.109 laboratory class because they were given additional space in Building 16 and were also given permission to hire additional teachers as needed, Griffith said.

BE major Danielle E. Carpenter '07 said that while she knew a lottery was possible, she "was not particularly worried about not getting into the major, because her UROP professor said it would probably not be a problem.

Griffith said that the department is working with MIT administration to provide more laboratory space to hold larger classes, a development that will affect this year's freshman class, whose members have shown significant interest in the BE major. "I hope we will be able to accommodate at least 40 people, perhaps more," Griffith said.

While the department does hope to grow and build their student base, Griffith said that they want to attract students who are truly interested in the MIT BE program, which is focused on the modern molecular life

sciences.

"Some students when they come to MIT have misconceptions about what exactly our BE program is about, because they think we have included a lot of medicine-related topics in our classes, while we are actually focused on the molecular life sciences," Griffith said.

"These misconceptions arise naturally because most other schools with bioengineering programs focus on human physiology," while MIT's program "seeks to educate students in applying engineering principles to biology," she said. "Our job is to make sure that they have a clear picture [of our BE program] so that if students truly are interested in majoring in BE they can."

Carpenter provided another explanation for the number of applicants, saying that some of the 75 students in BE.110 (Thermodynamics of Biomolecular Systems) may not have chosen to pursue the BE major because they could always take most of the BE classes, except for the laboratory class BE.109, without being a BE major. Students could also pursue a BE research project even while pursuing another major, she said.

Carpenter, however, said that she has always wanted to be a BE major since her junior year of high school and is extremely excited

about the major. "It's really exciting to be pioneering and studying a new field as well as getting to have a big say in the course curriculum of such a new major," Carpenter said.

To decide the most fair and efficient way to conduct the lottery, Griffith asked for help from MIT undergraduate students, such as the members of Committee for Undergraduate Programs and those involved in the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES).

Griffith said that the BMES students were crucial in obtaining feedback about the lottery and other aspects of the new undergraduate major. One of the key suggestions made by BMES members was to hold off on the BE major selection process until the end of fall term of sophomore year, when most students would have taken the required core classes, including 7.01x (Introductory Biology), 18.03 (Differential Equations), and BE.110, necessary to apply for admission into the BE program. These requirements ensure that students have time to understand the intellectual goals of BE before applying, Griffith said.

BE.109, taken after students are admitted to the BE major, is an introductory laboratory course that exposes students to some basic biochemical and molecular laboratory techniques in the areas of protein

engineering, protein chemistry, genetic engineering and phenotypic engineering.

The Biological Engineering department was introduced in 1998 as a PhD program. In 2002, a visiting committee comprised of scientists from bioengineering companies outside academia and MIT alums recommended that MIT create a BE program for their undergraduates after noting the success of the PhD program.

According to Griffith, the faculty's first mission in establishing this new major was to decide what topics should be covered in the classes and create new classes appropriate for the major. BE now has a total of nine new core courses that were specially developed for it. By looking at the programs built at other colleges, Griffith and the other faculty were able to create a program that allowed students to utilize the engineering approaches to analyze design and synthesis components related to the molecular life sciences, instead of the usual focus on medicine and human psychology. "MIT is really very unique because we are the first university to have a biological engineering program that focuses entirely on engineering and the molecular life sciences instead of the widely-available engineering and medicine combination," Griffith said.

ISLAMIC EQUALITY	NUESTRAS VOCES	TRUE COLORS DANCE TROUPE	VARIATION
Tuesday, 7 March 2006 6:00pm Morse Hall, Walker Memorial, 50-100	Thursday, 9 March 2006 4:00pm Mezzanine Lounge, Student Center	Thursday, 9 March 2006 7:00pm Simmons Auditorium	
03.07.06	03.09.06	03.09.06	DIVERSITY AT MIT

CC
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MIT Committee on
Campus Race Relations

Companies Plan Heavy Recruiting for Programmers

Careers, from Page 1

reporter, nearly all still had full-time positions open, with most assuring that they hire year-round. There has been a “resurgence of the war for talent,” said Steve Caneli, manager of recruiting and staffing for General Electric. GE might see increases of 10 to 15 percent in interviews and graduate hiring in coming years, he said. While finance recruiting was

similar to last year’s, there was an increase in demand for computer science and engineering, said Jason W. Carver ’06, director of Internal Operations for the Sloan Undergraduate Management Association. Barry Beneski at Orbital Sciences said that there is a “very good job market in aerospace and defense. The industry is growing with the country’s increased defense spending.” He anticipated employment at Orbital would reach an “all-time

high” in 2006. Graphics hardware company nVidia is looking to “double its efforts” to hire recent graduates, with 200 internships available in both its software and hardware divisions, said Venessa Huffman, who leads their recruiting efforts. While the companies participating in the TBP career fair had opportunities for electrical, mechanical, and aerospace engineers, representatives from many com-

panies indicated strong demand for computer science majors and students with strong programming backgrounds.

Show me the money

Early February is also prime time for recruiting summer interns in the financial and consulting industries. MonsterTrak’s InterviewTrak showed over 150 resume drops were available between mid-January and mid-February from companies like Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, UBS, Bain & Company, Boston Consulting Group, and others.

Vivek A. Shah ’07 said he had 14 interviews total for trading, banking, and consulting firms with two offers, three second rounds, and two rejections so far. “The number one thing to do is get an externship at a bank,” he said. “It’s all about experience and coursework.”

Erik J. Lampe ’07 said he has 25 interviews scheduled for summer internships in finance and consulting. “Recruiters told me how all the resumes look the same. You need to have something that stands out” from the others, he said.

To prepare for his sales and

trading interviews Anastatios V. Giannopoulos ’07 read books and newspapers, and had mock interviews. “Last week, I saw a lot of the same people in the waiting room every day. You’re competing with everyone else,” he said.

Going out for the same jobs as friends can be stressful, said Tristan Almada ’07, but “it’s also encouraging that others are going through the same things as you.” During an interview, “I try to feel them out and tell them what they want to hear,” he said. But Jarod Tsoukalis SM ’07 said he had not prepared for his interview because he had previous job and interview experience. “I

asked one interviewer what they’re looking for and he said they just don’t want any particular major, they just want good people.”

Underclassmen Shut Out?

While the job market seemed strong for many companies looking for interns, some representatives said they were cautious about hiring freshmen and sophomores. But other recruiters said they look for anyone who fits the bill regardless of year.

Recruiting for Microsoft, Justin C. Marks ’02 said his company looks for top talent and strong passion across class years as it sponsors the 6.370 programming contest, 6.171 (Software Engineering for Web Applications), and the College Puzzle Challenge.

Christopher Resto, director of the Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program, said that up to 85 employers have shown up at its informal networking events for approximately 100 sophomores, “a sign that the economy is improving.” He said that strong student interest in obtaining life science and finance internships has made these internships harder to obtain than those in other fields like software engineering.

Elizabeth Reed, director of the Careers Office, said that many companies are looking to narrow their recruitment activities by working with major-specific student groups like the Biomedical Engineering Society.

Several career fairs are upcoming — the Office of Minority Education will hold one on Feb. 22, and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department will on Feb. 28. The Ivy+ online eFair will take place between Feb. 28 and March 3, and the Careers Office is also sponsoring a Career Exploration and Networking Fair for Freshmen and Sophomores on March 4.

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UA

Funded by UA FinBoard and 85 Broads

Solution to Crossword

from page 10

M	A	D	E	D	E	E	P	N	O	D	A	L
A	L	A	N	O	L	L	A	A	R	E	T	E
S	O	M	E	F	O	L	K	S	E	B	B	E
H	E	P	A	D	E	S	T	E	R	A	G	
		E	V	I	L			A	R	E	W	I
M	A	N	A	T	E	E	S	I	R	I	S	E
O	R	E	L	S	T	O	I	C	A	L		
M	I	D	A	S	A	N	D	S	L	A	M	S
			N	A	S	T	I	E	R	I	L	I
I	C	I	C	L	E	C	A	U	S	A	L	L
S	O	M	E	A	R	E		S	U	M	S	
S	U	P			B	R	O	W	S	E	P	A
U	P	E	N	D		O	T	H	E	R	W	I
E	L	D	E	R		S	T	E	T	A	C	I
S	E	E	D	Y		E	O	N	S		R	E

Solution to Sudoku

from page 11

3	2	5	6	4	7	1	9	8
7	1	9	5	8	3	2	4	6
4	8	6	1	2	9	3	7	5
1	4	2	7	9	5	6	8	3
9	3	8	2	6	4	7	5	1
5	6	7	3	1	8	4	2	9
8	9	1	4	7	6	5	3	2
6	5	4	8	3	2	9	1	7
2	7	3	9	5	1	8	6	4

Designers of Flying Car Win Lemelson Student Prize

By Don Aucoin
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Since the age of 8, Carl C. Dietrich '99 has wanted to be an aerospace engineer, and soon he will be one, armed with a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But there was another ambition — considerably less pragmatic, downright fanciful, in fact — that fired Dietrich's childhood dreams in Sausalito, Calif. He would sit looking out the window of his family home, he recalls, and think: "Gosh, wouldn't it be cool if we had a vehicle that could fly in our driveway?"

Plenty of other kids (and gridlocked commuters) have had the same dream, of course. The difference is that Dietrich believed he could one day design a flying car. Now, at 28, he is doing so.

For the past year, he and two others have quietly been developing plans for a flying car, or Personal Air Vehicle. Dubbed the Transition, it is still in the design stage, but they hope to begin manufacturing it by 2009. Already they have applied for four patents with the US Patent and Trademark Office and have discussed their plans with Federal Aviation Administration officials.

"We're battling a credibility issue with a concept like this, because it has been tried so many times before," Dietrich conceded. "People tend to smirk when you say you're trying to make a flying car: 'Oh, you're one of those guys.'" But, he insisted, "This isn't just another flying car concept. We're very serious about producing a flying car and selling it."

Few who know Dietrich would bet against him. Even by MIT's standards, he is considered a standout — so much so, in fact, that today he will be announced as the winner of the \$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize. An outside panel of scientists and technologists chose Dietrich for his "portfolio of novel inventions," including not just the flying car but also a desktop-size fusion reactor and a lower-cost rocket engine.

Merton Flemings, the director of the Lemelson-MIT Program, said yesterday that Dietrich beat out "quite a large number" of other candidates to be named "the most outstanding innovator of the year." Flemings, who has taught engineering and materials science at MIT for 50 years, maintained that Dietrich just might be the one to finally fulfill the dream of a widely available flying car.

"With the advent of new materials and new engines and his innovative design, he's got a chance to make it work," Flemings said. "I think the time has come."

The future is now

If Dietrich and his teammates do succeed in their bid to create, manufacture, and mass-market a flying automobile, it will make a reality of a concept that has long defeated the best efforts of other inventors, even as it has continued to tickle the public's imagination. Flying cars have been a staple of pop-culture fantasy, from the book and movie versions of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" to the 1960s TV cartoon "The Jetsons" to films that range from larky ("Chitty Chitty Bang Bang") to thrilling ("The Man With the Golden Gun") to dystopian ("Blade Runner").

But to Dietrich and the two others working on the project, 28-year-old Samuel A. Schweighart PhD '05 and 24-year-old Anna M. Mracek '04, a flying car represents an engineering puzzle to be solved and a business opportunity to be seized. Not that they are blind to the sheer romance of the endeavor. Since all three are licensed pilots, Mracek admitted, "We want this thing as soon as possible, because we want to use it."

The prospect of combining flying and driving in a single vehicle has tantalized engineers, inventors, and visionaries for decades. In 1940, Henry Ford proclaimed: "Mark my word, a combination airplane and motor car is coming. You may smile, but it will come."

Yet even though the FAA has already certified a couple of flying cars,

and even though FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said yesterday that "the concept of airplanes as personal transportation" is on the agency's radar, flying cars have yet to catch on as an everyday vehicle.

The team is out to change that. The Transition would weigh 1,320 pounds, feature a 100-horsepower engine, stand 6 1/2 feet tall, and be 80 inches wide. "If you can fit a Cadillac Escalade in your garage, you can fit this," said Dietrich. Schweighart, an MIT graduate who now works at Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, adds that the Transition will be best understood as a "drivable airplane." Their hope is that it will fit into the new FAA category of light sport aircraft and would take off from airports rather than lifting off from a driveway or roadway. (So much for that Bostonian fantasy of an airborne escape route from the Southeast Expressway.)

Here's how they envision it working: A driver (who would have to have a pilot's license) gets into the front seat of the Transition, turns a key in the ignition, and drives to the nearest small airport. The wings stick up from the sides; the rear propeller is not in use. Once at the airport, he pushes a button, lowering the 27-foot wings into flying position. The pilot runs a pre-flight check of the aircraft. Then, the pilot turns the key in the ignition once more, starts the propeller, taxis to the runway, and takes off. Traveling at about 120 miles per hour, at a cruising altitude between 3,500 to 8,000 feet (though the aircraft would be able to go as high as 12,000 feet), he flies to his destination. After landing at the airport, he pushes a button to transform the plane into a car and drives to his business meeting. Later, he drives back to the airport, changes it into a plane, flies back, converts the Transition to a car, and drives home.

Dietrich points out, however, that the Transition would not make a very practical family car. "This is not going to replace your Toyota Camry," he said. "You could take it to the store, but it doesn't have the trunk space of your SUV."

As they toil away on the project, into which they have poured thousands of dollars of their own money, the students are fully aware that they are in a race against other innovators across the country who are also working on a flying car. They are also fully aware how often inventors have tried and failed. Even at MIT, which routinely ventures to the furthest frontiers of scientific innovation, the project is creating ripples of excitement among the few who know about it. "It is a workable design, though he's got a considerable amount of work yet to do," said John E. Keesee SM '75, a retired Air Force colonel who is an instructor in MIT's Aeronautics and Astronautics Department. "What's most unique about Carl is he can bring projects to fruition."

It was 18 months ago that Dietrich resurrected his childhood dream of designing a flying car. He and Schweighart had been discussing their postgraduation plan to form a company. "We asked, 'What are the big problems in aerospace that we could raise the capital to attack?'" The problem Dietrich homed in on, he said, was "the general desire of the average Joe to travel some distance, of 500 miles, in a time-effective manner" not subject to the schedule of an airline or railroad.

Piloting their course

When Dietrich suggested they build their company around the invention of a flying car, Schweighart laughed. "Then he showed me an engineering sketch of a vehicle, and I realized he was serious," Schweighart said. They set to work, conducting computer-aided aerodynamic design analyses. They went through 52 different vehicle configurations before settling on the current one. They have tested several models in the MIT wind tunnel.

A year ago, they asked Mracek, an MIT Aeronautics-Astronautics graduate student, to join the team because of her organizational skills.

Since then, with an eye toward raising capital and forming a business, they have added to the team a pair of students from MIT's Sloan School of Management, Alex B. Min G and Arun Prakash G.

They all are convinced the time is right for a flying car. Study after study finds that America's roads are increasingly clogged with traffic. To go on business or leisure trips of a few hundred miles, many travelers squander half a day traveling by plane, train, or car. Keesee, who is not involved in the project, said recent advances in aerodynamic technology make a flying automobile more feasible. Dietrich said the nation's smaller, general aviation airports are chronically underutilized. And the FAA has recently streamlined the certification requirements for light sport aircraft, which, in the students' view, would make the Transition less costly to build.

At the moment, they don't know how much it will cost to build. They also don't know how much it will cost customers, though Dietrich estimates it will be between the average cost of a car (about \$30,000) and the average cost of general aviation aircraft (which typically cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000).

Despite many attempts over the years, a flying car for the masses has remained elusive. In 1917, just 14 years after the Wright brothers' historic flight, the Autoplane designed by an aviator named Glenn H. Curtiss made a short flight. But the Autoplane fell victim to the problem that has bedeviled the concept ever since: In trying to be both car and plane, it didn't function well as either.

In the 1920s, Ford threw his company's clout behind the notion of a "flying flivver," but he abandoned the project when a prototype crashed, killing a friend. In 1949, a former US Navy aeronautical engineer named Moulton B. Taylor designed the Aerocar, and launched his first model

in 1956. It had detachable wings that were removed for driving and reattached for flying. Taylor created several later models of his Aerocar, several of which still exist (one was used by actor Bob Cummings in the 1960s; another was used for a time as a traffic-watch aircraft by a radio station in Portland, Ore.).

If Dietrich and his partners succeed in making flying cars more commonplace, it's possible that not all the changes will be beneficent. Traffic congestion on the ground is already at noxious levels, and the prospect of the skies clogged with cars is enough to make the heart sink. Moreover, notes Keesee, "If drunk drivers are bad, drunk pilots are going to be far worse."

But that's down the road, or the sky, as the case may be. Right now, the students are intent on finishing the design phase and getting the Transi-

tion on the market. They plan to incorporate soon as a company called Terrafugia (derived from the Latin words for "earth" and "to escape"), and have set up a Web site: terrafugia.com. In May, they will introduce the Transition in Boston at an event hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association. In July, they will talk up their concept and display scale models at the EAA's annual AirVenture convention in Oshkosh, Wis., which attracts thousands of aviation enthusiasts from around the world. If their idea gets an enthusiastic response from that demanding audience, the trio will start to raise capital to build the Transition.

"We're not going for a radical transformation, to just throw society into 'The Jetsons,'" said Mracek. However, she added, "if this is the commercial reality we think it can be, changes will occur in the world."

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MIT Dramashop announces auditions and production roles

for

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Monday 20 February, in room 4–145
Tuesday 21 February, in room 4–153

Rehearsals for *Electronic City* will begin in March, and there will be workshop performances between 20 and 22 April. On-campus previews are planned for 6–8 June, and the company will leave for the UK on or shortly after 11 June, returning by 2 July. Both *Electronic City* and the devised piece accompanying it on tour are senior thesis projects in theater.

We're looking for one or two additional people to join the tour in a **designing** or **technical** capacity. Experience is absolutely not essential — contact us if you'd like to talk about the project.

For more information please e-mail hkt@mit.edu.

ACTS is funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT, the Associate Provost for the Arts, and the Undergraduate Association's Finance Board.

Saudi Ambassador Speaks About World's Oil Industry

By Curt Fischer
STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday, MIT students and Cambridge community members questioned Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., mainly focusing on Middle Eastern politics and the world oil industry.

Thursday's Q&A session followed Turki's lecture in a packed Bartos theater, hosted by Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61. Deutch, who introduced Prince Turki, was Director of Central Intelligence from 1995 to 1996, and worked directly with Turki, who from 1977 to 2001 was head of Saudi Arabia's General Intelligence Directorate. In his introduction, Deutch said he "dramatically learned to respect the opinions and wisdom of Prince Turki."

Perhaps the most widely anticipated subject the ambassador took up was oil. "We are at a time of economic expansion, and what enables this growth is oil," he said. "Saudi Arabia will supply as much oil as the world demands," he emphasized. However, he also recognized that "oil is a finite resource" and said that the kingdom's "infinite resource was our people."

To that end, Prince Turki said, Saudi Arabia had recently embarked on a number of educational

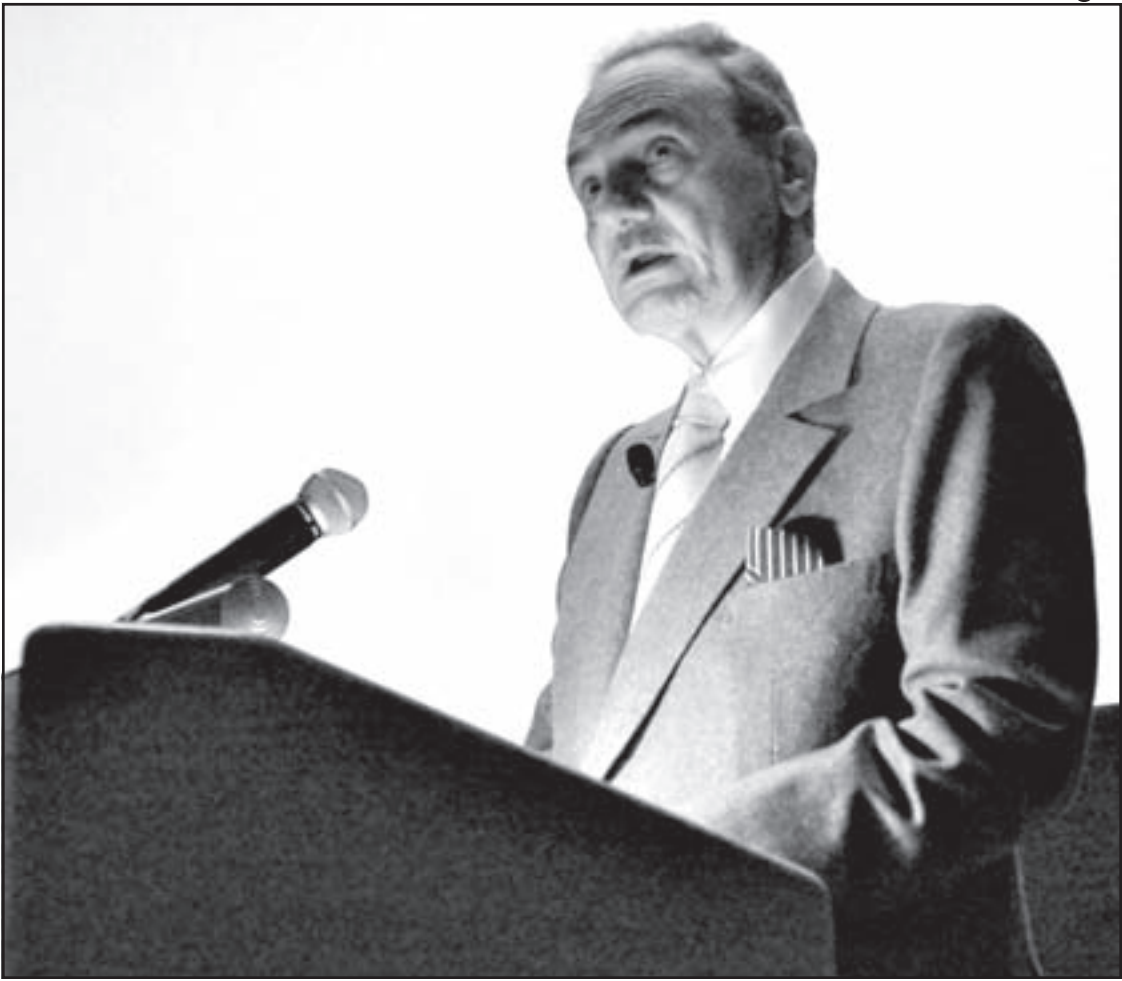
initiatives. Now under construction is Faisal University, Saudi Arabia's first "truly private non-profit university." He also mentioned that recently the Saudi government began a large scholarship program to fund the college education of Saudi citizens in the U.S., noting that over 5,000 Saudis have applied for student visas in the U.S. in the past year. Of those, 192 will be coming to the Massachusetts area.

Prince Turki also emphasized Saudi Arabia's commitment to following the conclusions of 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference — a 56-nation diplomatic assembly of Islamic nations which confers on common issues facing its members — specifically, to fight terrorism, implement political and

economic reforms, and to take back Islam from the "extremist element" which has "subverted our religion."

Prince Turki entertained questions from the audience for nearly 20 minutes. Most came from MIT students interested in democratization in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Lebanon. Saudi Arabia had been directly involved in both Syria and Iraq's nascent democratization.

In presenting Saudi Arabia's own recent efforts towards democratization, Turki noted that in the kingdom's next elections, women



Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, speaks to a packed audience at the Bartos Theater in E15 yesterday afternoon.

will enjoy suffrage for the first time. He used Alfred North Whitehead's quote, that "the art of progress is to

preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order." Prince Turki spoke at Harvard

University on Wednesday and appeared on PBS's Charlie Rose Show on Monday.

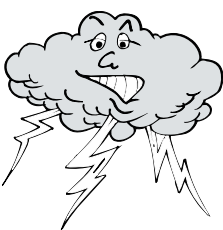


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The Production Department's Word of the Day
fulminous, adj.: Of or pertaining to thunder and lightning; fulminating.
join@the-tech.mit.edu

Dorm Would Improve Graduate Community

Dormitory, from Page 1

sions Marilee Jones, with many suggesting an increase of 100.

Additionally, moving undergraduates into Ashdown would add beds to the housing system and finally allow the Institute to end the Senior Segue program, which allows 10 percent of MIT seniors to live in graduate housing at undergraduate housing prices. The program was introduced in 2001 as a temporary measure to mitigate crowding in undergraduate dormitories.

Planning for both the new graduate dormitory and the undergraduate residence that would occupy Ashdown's current space is still in the earliest stages, Benedict said. It is "very early in the process," and many "questions haven't been addressed" yet, he said.

Over the next few weeks, discussions about the new graduate dormitory's community will begin, with representatives from Student Life Programs, Facilities, housemasters, and the Dormitory Council involved, Benedict said.

The new graduate dormitory will be located in the northwest part of campus, as recommended by a Housing Strategies study completed two years ago, and would expand the graduate community in that area. Because of zoning restrictions, the maximum capacity for the planned \$104-million residence would be about 500 to 520 beds, Benedict said.

The decision to build the new graduate residence sends a "symbolic signal," Benedict said, of a "firm commitment on the part of the Institute to graduate student housing." Currently, demand exceeds supply for graduate housing, he said.

At Wednesday's faculty meeting, MIT President Susan Hockfield said the new dormitory would help achieve MIT's commitment to the City of Cambridge to house half of its graduate students on campus. A 2004 Housing Strategies report indicated that at that time, about 36 percent of MIT's roughly 6,000 graduate students were housed on campus.

While the new graduate dormi-

tory will likely have much higher rents than Ashdown, Tang Hall will be maintained as a comparably cheaper option for graduate students with tight financial resources, Benedict said.

Plans for Ashdown's current space will not be determined for months, Benedict said. MIT's report to the city presented last week, at which the new residence was announced, suggested that Ashdown might be used as swing housing while other undergraduate dormitories are renovated.

"East Campus is our top priority for ... gut renovation," with Burton Conner House also high on the list, Benedict said, though no plans have yet been set.

The 2004 Housing Strategies report also indicated that Random Hall and Bexley Hall might be closed over the next decade, but Benedict said no discussion about those possibilities would be initiated for some time.

Changing Ashdown into undergraduate housing would also enhance the undergraduate community by adding one more undergraduate residence to dormitory row along Amherst Street, Benedict said.

Following the completion of the 2004 report that recommended a new graduate dormitory, plans for the residence were stalled until last summer because of a lack of funding, Benedict said. After being approved by MIT's president, executive vice president, chancellor, and provost, plans were firmed up by MIT's building committee in December, he said, with the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation approving the new dormitory on February 3 as being in the planning phase.

Before construction can begin, another vote by the Corporation's Executive Committee would be needed, Executive Vice President Sherwin Greenblatt '62 wrote in an e-mail.

Following the February 3 meeting of the Executive Committee, Benedict said he began discussions with Ashdown Housemaster Terry P. Orlando about Ashdown's relocation, with more details to be worked out in coming months.

New Web Site Created to Compile Energy-Related Class Materials

Energy, from Page 1

breakout sessions on what issues they wanted to see the Energy Initiative target.

"There was considerable interest from industry and a desire to collaborate" with MIT, said Moniz, who added that industry professionals seemed to feel MIT would have a particularly strong influence as a broker between groups.

Summaries of feedback heard at the breakout sessions and slides and audio of presentations given throughout the workshop are available on the ILP Web site (http://ilp-www.mit.edu/display_event_agenda.a4d?eventId=1797&key=P4f1), Bloomquist said.

Since the workshop, many industry leaders have continued to meet with MIT faculty members, expressing interest in working with the Institute.

"We viewed [the workshop] as an opportunity to get insight and connect to the MIT community and bring [into MIT] a company perspective, a practical business view," said Richard Sears, a representative of Shell who attended the workshop and is now a visiting scientist in the LFEE.

Sears was also one of the instructors of 12.093 (Energy: Science, Technology, and Sustainable Development), a one-week energy class held over MIT's Independent Activities Period this year.

In the fall of 2005, the Council also solicited input from faculty and students, asking for white papers detailing research directions that the Energy Initiative should take. Approximately 100 faculty members took part in writing the white papers, which are available on the ERC Web site (<http://web.mit.edu/erc/>), and the MIT Energy Club conducted a campus-wide survey whose results were presented to the Council.

Energy class database launched

The EnergyClasses site (<http://energyclasses.mit.edu/>), launched on Jan. 25 and sponsored by LFEE, highlights graduate and undergraduate classes with a significant focus on energy.

"What we're hoping is that the site can meet the needs of those students with a specialized interest and those with a casual interest in energy," said Amanda Graham, LFEE Education Program manager. The site has not received any student feedback yet, Graham said,

but faculty members have submitted suggestions for possible courses to highlight.

To be included, energy must constitute at least half of the course's contents, as stated on the site. This and other criteria used to decide course eligibility were developed by the eight-faculty-member Education Subcommittee of the Council, along with input from LFEE education staff.

Two students in the MIT Energy Club also provided input during the development of the site. Ariel M. Esposito '09 and Michael Berlinksi G met with the faculty of the subcommittee to narrow down criteria for energy classes and to discuss the format of the Web site.

"I feel strongly that there needs to be a higher level of understanding of the current energy situation on the MIT campus, and I hope this Web site will facilitate such an understanding," Esposito said.

As reported by *Tech Talk* in January, EnergyClasses will be part of a larger Council Web site that will include a comprehensive database of energy initiatives on campus. The larger site will also highlight individuals and laboratories involved in energy research.

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SPORTS

Olympic Skaters Overcome Fall, Restart Program and Win Silver

By Yong-yi Zhu
STAFF COLUMNIST

The most amazing display of triumph over adversity happened Monday night in Torino, Italy. When Chinese figure skating pair Zhang Dan and Zhang Hao completed their free skate, they had not only won the hearts of the audience, but also should have won the hearts of everyone who has ever faced any significant challenge.

Allow me to explain. Monday night in America has always symbolized toughness and grittiness in the form of football. Large men use all their strength to together achieve a common goal. Every Monday night, we watch the games because they define toughness, and the athletes serve as role models.

That's what I thought of Monday nights up until this time, when Olympic pairs figure skating completely put football in the backseat and rocked my world. True, not many of us pay that much attention to the pairs competition. What could have topped the story of last Olympics' pairs figure skating, when the French judge intentionally docked points from Canadian team Jamie Salé and David Pelletier? The Skatagate scandal ran so deeply that the entire points system for figure skating was altered.

Well, we can look at all three medalist teams to show why this event is truly inspirational.

Take the Russian gold medalists Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin. During Skate America over a year ago, while Maxim was per-

forming a lift, he somehow did not have complete control of Tatiana. He fell, and she crashed face-first into the ice, suffering a concussion.

Although Tatiana recovered, Maxim became extremely hesitant, and his tentativeness definitely showed up both Saturday and Monday during all the lifts. Despite that, the two still performed nearly perfectly, and went on to win the event by more than ten points.

Talk about trust. Tatiana had to trust her partner, who had to trust himself. But that's only one of the stories of Monday night.

The Chinese bronze medalists Zhao Hongbo and Shen Xue also had to overcome hardships. About six months ago, they were one of the favorite teams for Olympic gold, along with Totmianina and Marinin. But during practice, Zhao ruptured his Achilles heel, and just like that, Olympics dreams immediately turned to dust.

Yet the two continued to train for Torino. They didn't want to dump everything they had worked for, and although Zhao couldn't even skate until about three months ago, they won a bronze again. He went from unable to walk to Olympic medal-worthy all in the span of six months.

And that brings us to the silver medalists from the pairs event, Zhang Dan and Zhang Hao. They didn't have any major mishaps coming into Monday night, but boy did

they bring the drama. At the opening of their program, Zhang and Zhang attempted a throw quadruple Salchow, something never accomplished in Olympic history.

The height on the jump looked good, until Zhang Dan came down, missed the landing and banged her knee hard on the ice. She crashed into the wall and the entire program just stopped. I held my breath, and I'm sure many of the audience members did the same as they wondered what would happen.

Surely, their medal prospects were over. However, even in tears, Zhang Dan told her coach and her

However, even in tears, Zhang Dan told her coach and her partner that she would continue.

partner that she would continue. After the program restarted, the pair continued from the crash landing and performed a double-triple jump combination, combining amazing twists in the air and beautiful lifts. You could tell that Zhang Dan was in pain at the end of the program, because she came out of some of her elements a little early, but her heart and her courage were still there. Now they have an Olympic silver medal to show.

I have never witnessed something nearly as dramatic as this. To watch her fall that hard and rise again all in the span of about ten minutes was amazing. And to pairs figure skating, I say congratulations for providing us with such heroes and for rebounding from something so terrible as Skatagate to captivate us all once again.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 17, 2006
Varsity Men's Indoor Track and Field New England Division III Championship 8 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Varsity Women's Swimming NEWMAC Championship 11 a.m., Zesiger Sports Center

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006
Varsity Men's Indoor Track and Field New England Division III Championship 8 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Varsity Women's Swimming NEWMAC Championship 11 a.m., Zesiger Sports Center
Varsity Women's Basketball vs. Smith College 1 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006
Varsity Women's Swimming NEWMAC Championship 11 a.m., Zesiger Sports Center

Men's Volleyball Tops Record With 21 Aces, Dominates Lesley 3-0

By Mindy Brauer
ASST. DIR. OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The MIT men's volleyball team defeated Lesley University (0-8), 30-9, 30-7, 30-11, in the inaugural meeting between the squads on Tuesday night. With 21 aces in the match, the Engineers (11-3) established a new Institute mark.

Kenneth K. Rosche '08 paced MIT with 11 kills, while T. Scott Pollom '09 was perfect with eight kills on eight swings. Alexander L. Borschow '06 also contributed eight kills and Stephen D. Ray '08 finished with seven kills and six aces.

Jordan X. Wan '06 and Ryan G. Dean '08 split setting duties with Wan totaling 12 assists in the first game while Dean closed the contest with a

career-high 24 assists. Dean added a team-high seven aces as Rosche and Borschow each contributed four.

In other team news, MIT swept the NECVA New England Division weekly honors, with Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 named Player of the Week and Scott Pollom chosen as the Rookie of the Week. Pamidimukkala posted 92 kills in 14 games to average 6.57 per game. In addition, his backrow defense was very solid, as he averaged about 2 digs per game. Pollom collected the his first conference honor as he averaged 2.86 kills per game and earned a hitting percentage of .382.

The Engineers will host the Wentworth Institute of Technology and Milwaukee School of Engineering on Saturday, February 25th in a tri-match at Rockwell Cage.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering announces:



The 2nd Annual Hatsopoulos \$50,000 Innovation & Thesis Award


MIT alumnus and entrepreneur **George Hatsopoulos** (SB'49, SM'51, ScD'56), founder of Thermo Electron Corp., will fund a

\$50,000 prize

to recognize the creativity and ingenuity of an outstanding Doctoral candidate *in Mechanical Engineering* whose research, as exhibited by their thesis, will contribute significantly to the development of a patentable innovation or invention.

All Mechanical Engineering Doctoral candidates are encouraged to submit a two-page CV and a proposal — no more than five pages — outlining an idea for an innovation or invention that has the potential of being patented and becoming the core of a doctoral dissertation.

Send proposals to **Leslie Regan** (Mechanical Engineering Graduate Office, Bldg. 1-112, lregan@mit.edu, Tel: 3-2291) by **May 15, 2006**



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5:15pm in the MIT Chapel
(dinner & discussion follow in W11)

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